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RACING
THRILLING DA
RAISES STAK
AT NEWMARK

Figa stays behind as Sobanska defends her title

THE TIMES

30P

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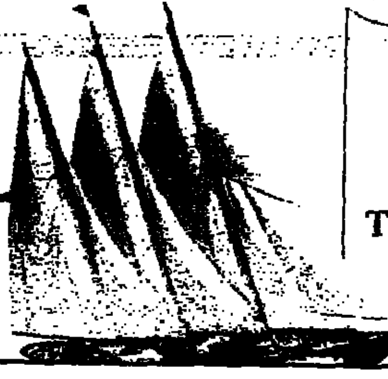

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30 PAGES of top jobs

Gap between good and bad attacked

Standards in schools 'are still slipping'

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

SIR Claus Moser, the Oxford don who made a speech six years ago which ignited public anxiety over education, gave a warning last night that standards had slipped still further.

The former Warden of Wadham College, an adviser to the Prince of Wales, welcomed recent government initiatives in schools. But he argued that underachievement had become even more serious since 1990.

In a speech to the Royal Society of Arts in London Sir Claus said that Britain was lagging behind Western Europe and the Far East. There was a widening gap between the "good educational lives of the few and the poor ones of the many".

He said that among the most serious concerns were:

☐ **Illiteracy:** a serious and "disgraceful" problem. National tests of 11-year-olds showed only 44 per cent of 11-year-olds reaching the expected level in English.

☐ **Innumeracy:** schools paid too little attention to arithmetic and British nine-year-olds came third from bottom in a table of 14 countries.

☐ **School buildings:** many children were left in "appalling conditions". A survey estimated that £3 billion was needed over the next five years just to keep schools open.

☐ **Vocational courses:** these left the workforce short of "middle qualifications" — crucial to economic success.

Before his address Sir Claus said he had been shocked to find that one in 11 teenagers was leaving school without qualifications. This was one in five in the most deprived areas. "The gap between good comprehensive schools and appalling ones is still widening," Sir Claus said. "There are plenty of good comprehensives in Scotland and in rural areas and then there are schools that none of us would send our children to."

Sir Claus: Britain lags behind Europe and East

Sir Claus, a former head of the Government's statistical service, added: "The more I have looked at developments over the last five years, the more I have been dismayed that the emphasis all the time is on making sure that the abler children and the slightly more privileged are not handicapped. The bottom half is even worse off."

Almost six years ago, Sir Claus told the British Association for the Advancement of Science that the 1990s should be designated a "decade for education." The speech prompted a welter of government initiatives and Sir Claus founded the independent National Commission on Education with the backing of the Prime Minister. But last night Sir Claus said that young people were no better off than their counterparts 20 years ago.

He accused ministers of putting electoral advantage above the interests of pupils in framing policies on education vouchers, grammar schools and the expansion of the Assisted Places Scheme. "It is all about politics, not about children," he said.

Pinning his hopes on a Labour government to arrest the decline in standards, Sir Claus challenged Tony Blair to prove his party's commitment by earmarking at least an extra £3 billion a year for education. He said Labour policy statements, with the exception of opposition to selective education, were freer of dogma than the Tories'.

Sir Claus called for nursery education, primary schools and the teaching profession to be given priority by an incoming administration. "On these the entire structure rests, and they should come before anything else in thought, research and resources in the opening years of a new government."

Nursery vouchers should be scrapped and replaced by a phased programme of provision for three and four-year-olds, with primary school funding improved. Sir Claus hoped that grammar and grant-maintained schools would become "first-class comprehensives" serving children of all abilities and backgrounds.

A spokesman for Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said it was "nonsense" to suggest that the reforms were politically inspired.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, said: "This is a clear and ringing indictment of the Government's education policies. Little has improved and the Secretary of State should be ashamed. Sir Claus could not be clearer: standards are unacceptably low."

MICHAEL POWELL

Martin Wyld, the gallery's chief restorer, with Holbein's *The Ambassadors*

National Gallery accused of ruining paintings

From Quentin Letts in New York

THE National Gallery, which will this month unveil a major restoration, has come under attack for its "secretive" art cleaning policies and for a series of scientific "blunders" since the Second World War that have altered the look of Old Masters.

A New York audience heard Michael Daley, a British art campaigner, accuse the London gallery of "ruining" a number of valuable paintings, including work by Titian, Veronese and Giampietrino. Mr Daley said he "feared the worst" over Holbein's masterpiece *The Ambassadors*, which the gallery has spent three years cleaning. The 1533 double portrait will go on show on April 29, coinciding with a BBC television documentary.

Mr Daley, a member of the peppery pressure group Artwatch, gave a lecture to the Arts Students League in Manhattan. He quoted from the latest edition of the National Gallery's small-circulation *Technical Bulletin* which admits, in an apparent volte face, that medieval artists were known to use a final, thin layer of oil and resin to tone down parts of their work. Such a theory has long been resisted by the gallery's cleaning experts, Mr Daley said.

He feared that the cleaning solvents used by the gallery often destroyed those tonal layers, altering the artistic balance of great works and robbing them of subtlety. "Things which were once different become more equal," he said. The National Gallery conducted "the most ferocious cleaning" with solvents of any gallery in the world and was guilty of "removing varnishes in their entirety as swiftly as possible".

The *Bulletin* report described the restoration of two paintings by Giampietrino, an early 16th-century student of da Vinci. The report noted that Giampietrino would apply a final layer of walnut oil and resin to tone down colours.

A similar claim about medieval art was made in 1950 by the scholar Sir Ernst Gombrich, one of the first people to express fears about the gallery's cleaning practices. He was rebuked by the Trafalgar Square art establishment. When Mr Daley brought the latest *Bulletin* to the attention of Sir Ernst, 87, the old man expressed great delight and said "there is now more joy in heaven".

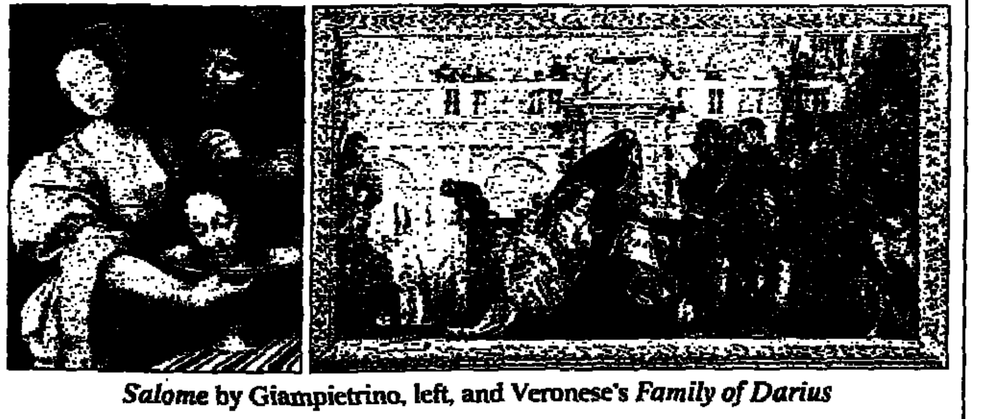
Mr Daley said he had been refused access to the Holbein during the cleaning process and had not been allowed to see restorers' dossiers. Nor were the solvents disclosed. He feared the chemicals used by the gallery in past restorations had again been used, and he did not like to predict what they might have done to the painting's finish.

Last night, however, Martin Wyld, the chief restorer at the National Gallery, dismissed the idea that the gallery had been "secretive".

"Everybody who knows about German Renaissance paintings has been in to see *The Ambassadors*. Over the past three years, several dozen scholars, curators and conservators from museums in this country, and in Europe and America, have seen it twice during its treatment, at the beginning and the end. All national newspaper art critics were also invited at the beginning and end."

Asked why he had refused

Continued on page 2, col 5



Salome by Giampietrino, left, and Veronese's *Family of Darius*

Duke and Duchess to stay 'bestest of friends'

By Alan Hamilton and Emma Wilkins

THE Duchess of York declared yesterday that she would remain "the bestest of friends" with her estranged husband as the couple, and 28 other petitioners, were granted a divorce in their absence in the High Court's Family Division. The hearing lasted less than three minutes.

Under the rubber-stamp simplicity of "quickie" divorce procedure there was no need for either party to be present. Apart from judge and clerk, the only other occupants of the small and simply furnished courtroom in Somerset House were a petitioner in an entirely different case objecting to costs and 25 reporters.

> ❛The damage to the Royal Family comes from our having higher expectations of them❜
>
> *William Rees-Mogg, page 20*

While the hearing was in progress, the Duchess emerged from her Swiss skiing chalet at Verbier, where she is spending a week's holiday with the couple's children — Princess Beatrice, seven, and Princess Eugenie, six.

She said she and the Duke had spoken by telephone before the hearing. "I speak to him every day. The children are well; everyone is well. Our children are very secure and happy children because they know their mother and father are the bestest of friends."

Asked if this was the saddest day of her life, she said: "Yes, I would say that was an understatement. It's very sad, of course it's sad. It was a personal decision between Andrew and I and no one else was involved." Asked about her future, she said: "We'll take every day as it comes."

The Duke was at the former marital home in Sunninghill, Berkshire, preparing to drive to work at the Royal Navy base at Portland, Dorset, on his way to weekend exercises in Scandinavia.

Having been granted a decree nisi yesterday, the Duke need only apply by post in six weeks' time for the decree to be made absolute — when the ten-year marriage will be over.

The formal ending of the royal union was in the sharpest of contrasts to its beginning. The couple married in July 1986 in Westminster Abbey before a worldwide television audience of 500 million.

The only grounds for divorce given, and the only ones necessary, were that the couple had been separated for at least two years, and that both parties consented.

Duchess's future, page 4

"I'd just like you to know that you're still my bestest friend"

Peres is urged to continue attacks

Israel's top military officer in Lebanon has issued an unprecedented challenge to Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, urging him not to order a swift end to the attacks on Lebanon.

The intervention by Brigadier-General Giora Inbar has prompted a political dispute about the conduct of the war .... Page 17

Fall in jobless

The Goverment welcomed an unexpectedly large fall in unemployment yesterday after the number of people out of work and claiming benefit dropped by 25,700 .... Page 25

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The Times on the Internet
http://www.the-times.co.uk

Pig heart pioneers win global backer

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

THE prospect of the first pig-to-human transplant moved closer yesterday after the international drug firm, Sandoz Pharma, bought the tiny British company that has pioneered the research.

Two Cambridge scientists, who set up the privately owned company Imutran, became the first in the world last year to transplant pigs' hearts into monkeys, overcoming the problem of rejection. They said that they planned to perform the first pig-to-human transplant this year.

There is a global shortage of organ donors and the potential demand is huge. In Britain there are 6,000 people on the official waiting list for organs and 30,000 are waiting in America. Sandoz, the Swiss-based multinational, said it was buying Imutran in a multimillion pound deal "to realise the potential of the technology in the shortest possible time."

The deal, the exact size of which is being kept secret, is a significant vote of confidence in the work pioneered by Imutran, set up 12 years ago by Dr David White, an immunologist at Cambridge University, and John Wallwork, director of transplantation at Papworth hospital, Cambridge. Dr Wallwork said yesterday that the purchase would ensure their work would go forward. "We said last year that we would do the first human transplant this year if progress continued in the lab and we overcame certain regulatory issues. That is still the position."

Dr Wallwork said it would "probably not" make him a millionaire when account was taken of other investors in Imutran. The company was founded by Dr White and Dr Wallwork with Ian Kent, a Cambridge businessman, in 1984 and today has 45 employees.

The company has bred a herd of genetically modified pigs by injecting human genes into pig embryos to provide the organs for the cross-species transplants, known as xenotransplants. Imutran's aim is to breed thousands of genetically modified pigs from which organs can be harvested.

In experiments last year, 18 transgenic pig hearts transplanted into monkeys were still beating up to 60 days later. Normally a pig's heart would turn black and be rejected within two minutes of being transplanted into another species.

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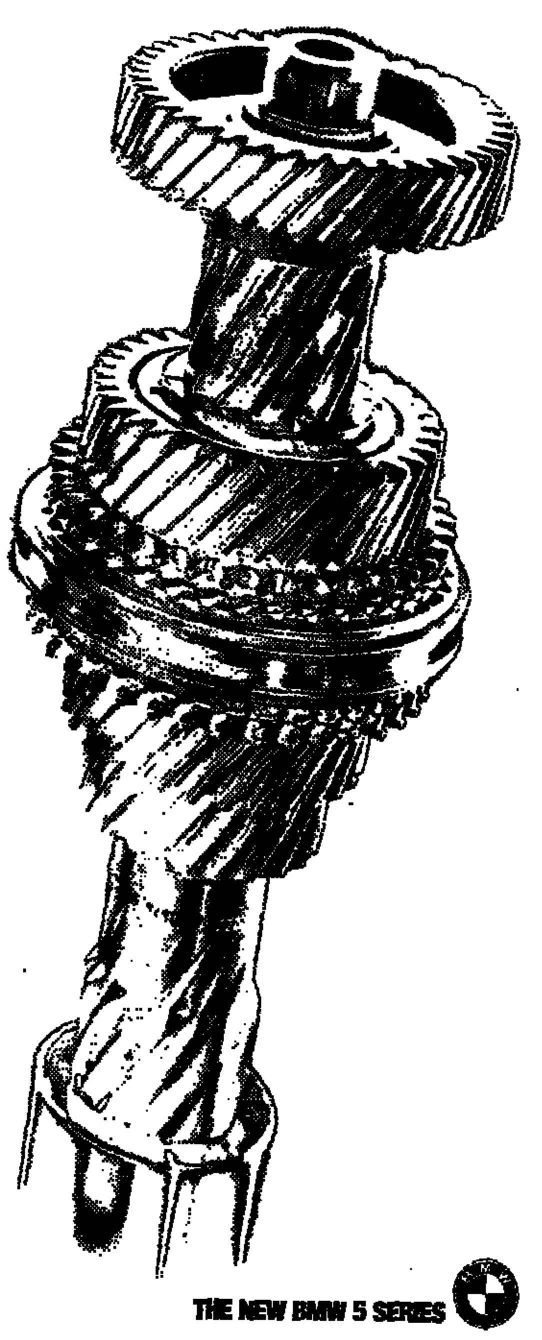


Destination unknown as Short steams ahead

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

IT is often difficult to imagine an MP actually *doing* any of the jobs on which she or he offers opinions. To the late Reginald Maudling, who as plump President of the Board of Trade complained at how long it took the British worker to build a car, Dennis Skinner once shouted: "An' 'ow long would it tek *you*, fats?" The arrow punctured.

Yesterday, Michael Fabricant (C, Mid Staffs) spluttered that unlike Labour MPs, he had real experience of engineering, but it was not easy to visualise the strawberry blond Mr Fabricant in oily overalls, at the lathe. How refreshing, therefore, to find a debate about trains led by Labour's Transport Spokeswoman, Clare Short. Ms Short is one of the few MPs it is possible to picture driving a steam engine.

Fresh from her tax gaffe and opening the debate on Railtrack, her locomotive skills were now on trial. From her cab at the dispatch box, Driver Short checked the Labour train coupled behind her.

It boasted many carriages, including a couple of after-lunch sleeping cars, for (by contrast to the Tories) the Opposition had turned out in force. You cannot say Labour is a very sleek train, a high-speed train or even a Sprinter: a distinctly mixed train, but at least they are all hitched together these days,. on the same track and more or less willing to be hauled along, groaning a bit, in the same direction.

From the corner, standing in the shadows, wary Chief Signalman (and Whip) Dewar, watched, eyes hooded, as Ms Short's train pulled out of the station. Warm cheers from the Labour benches sustained her.

Driver Short was nervous. Consulting her handwritten notes, she wobbled but was never quite derailed. Clattering over the points she tried a little clumsily to hitch up carriages from Northern Ireland, reminding Ulster MPs that their railways too faced privatisation, and inviting their votes. Gathering momentum and confidence, she took the parliamentary equivalent of wet leaves on the line — a scripted joke about tax — at speed and with courage. She made it through with ease.

A Tory vandal, Patrick Nicholls (Teignbridge) lobbed bricks on to the line, in the form of a sneer at the erstwhile British Rail: but they were quickly crushed and she steamed on.

In all this she was much encouraged by Stoker Prescott. Labour's Deputy Leader kept up a rumble of growls, cheers and gestures in her support.

Driver Short: "This is very important indeed."

Stoker Prescott: "Absolutely! *Grrr* ..."

Driver Short: "Railtrack issued a false prospectus."

Stoker Prescott: "Like the Tory manifesto! *Grrr* ..."

Then she approached a tricky junction just a shade fast. Labour would increase the efficiency of the railways, she gabbled. A Tory tried to throw the points: "How?" he interrupted.

"With higher levels of investment," she countered, still on track.

Transport Minister George Young tried to throw the next set of points. "I'm interested in that remark about investment," he said, craftily. "Where from?"

"Public/private partnerships," wobbled Short. Stoker Prescott waved a volume of Labour's proposals for partnerships. Rattled but on track, Short clattered on.

Where, ultimately, this train is going remains unclear. Important junctions lie ahead, and Thin Controller Tony Blair has a timetable of his own. But sketchwriters (we trainspotters of the parliamentary world) returned to Thermos flasks yesterday with no accident to report.

Major refuses to pander to the 'reckless' Right

FROM JILL SHERMAN IN PRAGUE AND PHILIP WEBSTER

Dr Mawhinney at a news conference yesterday. He was unrepentant about his attack in an interview

JOHN MAJOR let it be known last night that he would resist pressure for radical right-wing policies after the Tories' drubbing at the Staffordshire by-election last week.

The Prime Minister told senior colleagues that he regarded demands for hefty tax cuts as "reckless and silly" and he has made plain that he will not be pushed into a panic Cabinet reshuffle to restore the Tories' fortunes. His firm line emerged amid a fresh outbreak of Conservative tensions over the party's plight with senior MPs criticising an early morning outburst by Brian Mawhinney yesterday in which he accused a BBC interviewer of suggesting the Tories should "dump the *Prime Minister*".

The party chairman, who remained unrepentant about his attack on Radio 4's *Today* presenter Sue MacGregor, was accused by some colleagues of having chosen the wrong target in attacking a respected journalist with a reputation for fairness, and of handing ammunition to Labour. The angry exchange overshadowed the launch of the Conservative and Labour local election campaigns.

Sue MacGregor was accused during an interview of calling for the Tories to dump Mr Major

When Ms MacGregor reminded Dr Mawhinney that in 1990 the Tories had "got rid of" the poll tax and Margaret Thatcher, and suggested the party would have to do something equally dramatic to avoid losing more council seats, Dr Mawhinney exploded.

"What you have just suggested to me in front of the nation is that we should dump the Prime Minister," he said. "You drew the parallel with Mrs Thatcher and that is a ludicrous and indefensible question and if you think I'm annoyed with you it is because it is that kind of smeary question by *Today* programme presenters which so annoys people who listen to this programme up and down the country."

Labour accused the Tory chairman of trying to "bully" the BBC and professed themselves so delighted by his "tantrum" that they replayed the interview to journalists attending the launch of their council election campaign.

John Prescott said: "I must thank the Tory chairman for blurting out what is really being thought by most Tory MPs at the moment — dump the Prime Minister."

He added: "We will be keeping a very wary eye on the BBC to make sure they do not cave in in the face of the orchestrated campaign of intimidation being led by a desperate, rattled and incompetent Mr Mawhinney."

The *Today* programme stood its ground and a spokesman insisted its presenters would not change their interviewing style. "We believe Sue MacGregor's question was completely justified and pertinent," he said.

But Mr Mawhinney's supporters said his attack had been justified. It echoed the stream of letters received at Conservative Central Office suggesting that the programme was tough on the Tories and soft on Labour. One said the Tories had taken 60 telephone calls yesterday backing Mr Mawhinney.

The jittery atmosphere among Tory MPs has been heightened by persistent suggestions by informed Westminster sources that the decision to hold the Staffordshire South-East by-election last Thursday was taken against the advice of Mr Mawhinney, who wanted it to be held on the day of the local elections next month in order to get the bad news out of the way on the same day. It is said that Mr Major overruled the advice because he wanted to observe the convention that the by-election be called within three months of the death of the former MP.

Mr Major's supporters have in turn complained that the campaign was not well-run and have accused the organisers of failing to warn him how bad the result could be. Friends say that he remains shaken by the scale of the near 14,000 reverse.

The Prime Minister, who flew to Prague yesterday on a four-day tour of Eastern Europe, has effectively rejected the demand of John Redwood, whom he defeated for the leadership last year, for "a moral crusade in tax cutting" and a shift to the right on Europe. Mr Major told colleagues yesterday that he had no intention of changing tack to suit his critics. "Judge me on my record," he has told friends.

Mr Major has made clear that tax cuts cannot be considered in isolation and must be weighed against public spending commitments and plans. "You cannot do anything in isolation," he has said. "You have to look at the public expenditure side and public commitments."

Mr Major is determined the Government is not seen to panic after the Staffordshire defeat or the expected bad result in the May local elections. He has indicated that no early reshuffle is on the cards and he may not even carry one out in July. He has told friends that he has not even started reshuffling his ministers in spite of continual reports that one or other is to be dropped. "People say it's July so there must be a reshuffle."

The Prime Minister has voiced strong doubts over whether there will be any further defectors. Nevertheless his cautious approach to tax cuts will appeal to any Tory dissidents who may be considering jumping ship.

Peter Riddell, page 8

Cook signals return to values of 'old' Labour

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN COOK raised the banner of the Labour Left yesterday with a powerful speech in which he committed the party to protecting the poor, strengthening union links and increasing earnings for the low paid.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary set out a hard-line approach to reversing Tory policies, claiming that Labour would be the party of "social solidarity".

In language far removed from that used by Tony Blair last week, Mr Cook underlined Labour's commitment to equality and community, making the most vulnerable in society the party's first priority in government.

While Mr Blair used last week's visit to the US to emphasise the party's new centre-ground image, Mr Cook stressed its commitment to maintaining traditional Labour values. Mr Cook's speech to the Scottish Trades Union Congress was hailed by Labour traditionalists as sending a clear signal to the leadership to avoid further moves to the Right.

Against nervousness among Scottish Labour activists over the party's direction, Mr Cook mapped out a strategy based on equality and community, in which low pay, poverty and unemployment would be the first targets. "The poor may be many times more than top taxpayers, but they get a tenth of the public attention," he said. "Labour must speak for the poor. We must do it because our values of equality and community make us the party of social solidarity.

"Because each of us understands that if we accept a society that does not help those who are vulnerable and weak, then it will not help us when we are vulnerable and weak."

As the most prominent left-wing Shadow Cabinet member, Mr Cook is viewed by Labour's traditional wing as pivotal in preventing the party moving away from its socialist roots. His role in overseeing the development of party policy has reassured some backbenchers that traditional Labour values will be protected. Far from pitching for the middle-ground from which Labour has captured many Tory votes, Mr Cook said that Labour's bid for power would benefit the poorest. "We want power so that we can use it in the interest of justice, not for the interest of the privileged. And we want power so that we can share it with the people of our nation from whom it has been taken."

Cook: "Labour must speak for the poor"

While Mr Cook did not stray from established policy, he set a very distinctive tone in a speech from which the term "new Labour" was conspicuously absent. However, Mr Blair's aides were keen to point out that the speech had been written with the leader's agreement.

☐ Ken and Barbara Follett accepted undisclosed libel damages in the High Court yesterday over a column by Anne Robinson in *Today* newspaper which questioned the sincerity of their fundraising activities for the Labour Party.

News (UK) Ltd, publishers of the paper until its recent closure, its former editor, Richard Stott, and Miss Robinson accepted that the attack went beyond legitimate political exchange.

Gallery accused of art 'blunders'

Continued from page 1

to show the dossier to Mr Daley, he said: "We've shown him a great many restorers' dossiers in the past. We tend to restrict access to these working-notes to experts in the field.

"As for the Giampietrino work, Mr Daley has confused an oil layer and a varnish layer exactly as he accuses restorers of doing. What was found on Giampetrino's *Christ Carrying the Cross* was a glazing layer of brown oil paint, not varnish. Like all oil layers, it has dried extremely hard and no such glazing layer could be removed accidently. There is still no evidence that a coloured varnish layer was ever used in the way that Mr Daley suggests. Such coloured oil paint layers are extremely rare in Renaissance painting — there was no sign, for example, of any such layer in the other Giampetrino painting in the National Gallery, *Salome*."

In an attempt to back up his claims, Mr Daley produced "before and after" photographs of Giampietrino's *Salome*. Before cleaning, the areas near the severed head of John the Baptist were cast in shadow — a moral statement by the artist, Mr Daley suggested, with the artist deploying tonal values to create a definite effect. After its restoration the painting has lost those subtleties, and is much lighter. A 1956 restoration of Veronese's *Family of Darius Before Alexander the Great* produced similar effects.

However, Mr Wyld dismissed the criticism of *Salome*. "He may have looked at a dark print and a light print — without seeing the actual work. If anything, in reality, it is just as dark and the contrasts [are] accentuated by the cleaning," he said.

Mr Daley and Artwatch first expressed their fears to Nicholas Baring, the National Gallery chairman, in a letter last September. More than a month later Mr Baring replied to say that he was "satisfied that the conservation and scientific specialists of the gallery are fully in touch with new developments". Mr Baring did not see any cause for the cleaning moratorium suggested by Artwatch.

At the end of his lecture Mr Daley was surrounded by art lovers. Mr Daley, who repeated a call for a restoration moratorium at the gallery, quoted the words of Degas: "A man who touches a picture ought to be deported".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Publisher withdraws 'racist' IQ book

A book that claims black people are less intelligent than white people has been withdrawn by the publisher. John Wiley & Sons said the author, Chris Brand, had made "repellent" assertions in his book *The g Factor: General Intelligence and its Implications*, due to be launched today. Mr Brand, a psychology lecturer at Edinburgh University who describes himself as a scientific racist, said the decision was "stupid and cowardly". He is seeking legal advice. Students at the university have asked that he be removed as their lecturer.

Sex case acquittal

Donald Macleod, 55, a Free Church of Scotland professor of theology, was acquitted in Edinburgh of one charge of indecent assault when the alleged victim said the attack happened a year earlier than the date on the charge sheet. The trial continues on five other charges of indecent assault, involving five women, which the professor denies.

Claim dismissed

The Ministry of Defence last night refused to accept a claim by the parents of Louise Jensen, the 22-year-old Dutch girl killed by three Royal Green Jackets soldiers in Cyprus, that the Army was partially responsible for her death. But the ministry confirmed that any claim from Poul and Anette Jensen for compensation would be treated "sympathetically".

Killer locked up

A man who stabbed an academic to death at York University and wandered round the campus in her clothes, was sent to a secure hospital indefinitely by Leeds Crown Court. Robin Pask, 34, from Bolton, Greater Manchester, admitted the manslaughter of Elizabeth Howe, 34, on the grounds of diminished responsibility while attending an Open University course.

Driver free

Philip Hackwell, 29, who bundled an unconscious woman into his boot thinking he had killed her in a car accident, was given a suspended eight-month sentence at Ipswich Crown Court for trying to pervert justice. He freed her when she banged on the lid. He was banned for 12 months and fined £100 for careless driving

Protest at editor

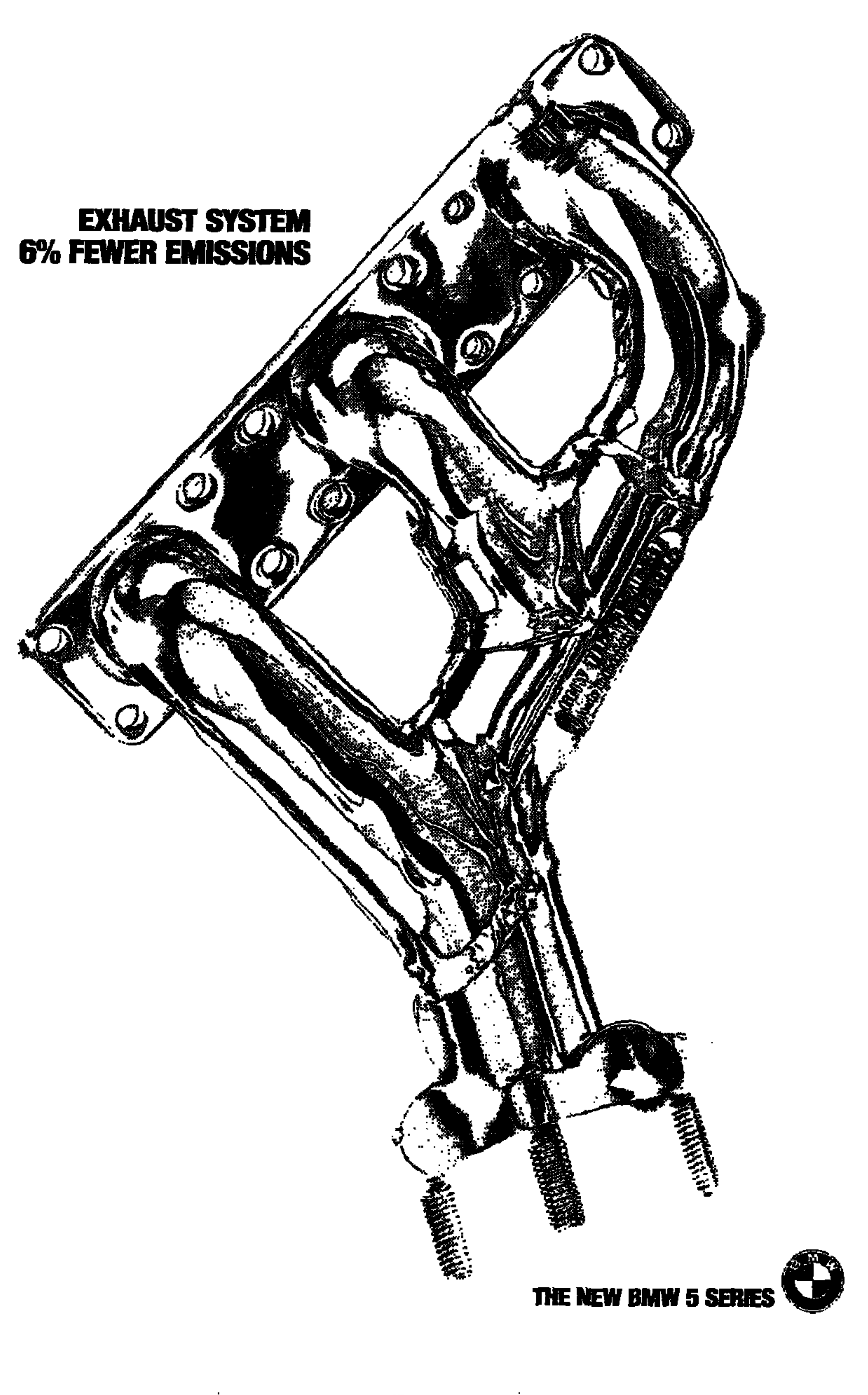
More than 170 journalists at the *Financial Times* passed a vote of no confidence in the paper's editor, Richard Lambert, and his deputy, Andrew Gowers, in protest at proposed job cuts. Six staff on the picture desk are to be made redundant and 16 sub-editors have been told their six-month employment contracts would not be renewed.

Law resignation

Henry Hodge, the Law Society council member who fought unsuccessfully against Martin Mears for the presidency last year, is resigning after 12 years. Mr Hodge, 52, who is taking up a part-time post with the Legal Aid Board, said he thought the Law Society, under its present leadership, was becoming "a bit of a laughing stock".

Potter award

A drama script idea about a young man who falls in love with a travelling salesman has won the £10,000 Dennis Potter Play of the Year Award. Glasgow playwright John Milarky's "outline" submission for his play *Lah A Note To Follow Soh* will be made into a television drama. The award goes to playwrights of exceptional promise.



German-born widow to sue over internment

By Adrian Lee

A GERMAN-born pensioner who says that she was wrongly interned as an enemy alien during the Second World War has been granted legal aid to seek compensation from the Government.

Gertrude Timmis, 78, a widow, said that she decided to sue more than 50 years after the end of the war because she cannot forget the humiliation she endured. She spent three years in prisons and camps and says that she was victimised.

Mrs Timmis, who lives in Droitwich, Hereford and Worcester, says that she should have been exempt from internment because her stepbrother served in the Royal Navy. "I feel very bitter about what happened to me and when I remember the conditions in prison and the abuse I got when I hadn't done anything wrong, I feel sick to the bottom of my stomach. I am not being greedy, I just want my name cleared.

"I was given the worst chores and made to work really hard. The criminals were given better treatment than me. We were stripped to the skin and given internal examinations. We were treated like animals."

The decision to intern thousands of people was controversial at the time. In August 1940, a letter to *The Times* described the policy as "conceived in panic and . . . incapable of sober justification". The writers, who included Lady Violet Bonham-Carter, Gilbert Murray and H.G. Wells, called for an end to the practice, describing internment as cruel.

Gertrude Timmis: jail cooks spat in her food

Mrs Timmis was interned in 1941, ten years after her arrival in Britain at the age of 13. Her mother, who died when Mrs Timmis was a child, had settled here after marrying a Scotsman. Mrs Timmis was still using her German name of Stang because she had not been legally adopted.

Her stepbrother George Addison, on whom the case hinges, died when his ship, the destroyer *HMS Quorn*, was sunk off France by a German mini-submarine in 1944.

Mrs Timmis, who was widowed twice, says that she has official papers stating that her internment was an error. Her relationship to a man serving in the forces should have allowed her to remain free. Her solicitor David Haughton said: "We are trying our best to get this to court but it is proving difficult because so many of the relevant documents have been destroyed."

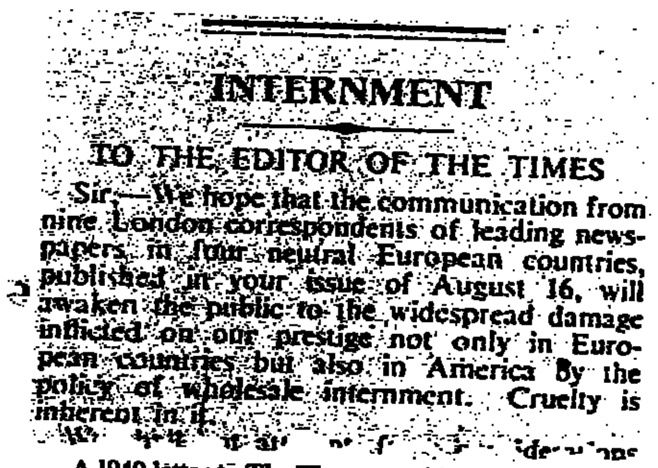
Mrs Timmis said: "I consider myself British, this is my home, but I feel I have been let down by my country. Now I am getting older I may not be able to afford to look after myself and if I want to do something I have to do it now, before it is too late. I am not asking for a fortune, just compensation for the three years of my life and the wages I lost."

The Home Office confirmed that Mrs Timmis had been held under the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act of 1939. It said that it was not aware of any payments having been made to former internees.

Mrs Timmis, one of 23,000 people of German and Austrian origin who were interned, was held at Winson Green prison, Birmingham; Holloway, north London; Liverpool and the Isle of Man. She said that at Holloway the cooks spat in her food and she went on hunger strike to get a transfer.

She was released in 1944 on condition that she agreed to be repatriated but managed to remain in Britain: "They just forgot about me." She has a slight German accent and said that some people in her home town still refused to accept her.

Nicholas Jacobs, who has published a book on the subject, *The Internment Aliens* by Francois Lafitte, said: "It is very brave of her to do this. There was never a general apology for this panic measure — I think because the Government feared legal action. It is now considered by historians to have been unnecessary. Some people were extremely badly treated."



INTERNMENT

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—We hope that the communication from nine London correspondents of leading newspapers in four neutral European countries, published in your issue of August 16, will awaken the public to the widespread damage inflicted on our prestige not only in European countries but also in America by the policy of wholesale internment. Cruelty is inherent in it.

A 1940 letter to *The Times* attacking internment included H.G. Wells among the signatories

SIMON WALKER

Drill Sergeant Robertson has a friendly word with a military detainee at Colchester

Army assures its reluctant guests that camp will be no tea party

By Michael Horsnell

SHORT back and sides, military fatigues and square-bashing were highlights of the regime announced yesterday for young offenders when the Prison Service's much-heralded "boot camp" opened its doors for inspection.

The Young Offender Institution (YOI) in the garrison town of Colchester will take 32 inmates from this autumn, alongside 200 military detainees, at a cost of over £1 million a year. Lieutenant Colonel Glen Grant, the commandant, said: "Reveille will be at 0600 hours. You can be sure we shan't be taking them a cup of tea when we wake them up."

Colonel Grant, who will be the military governor of the institution, added: "It's not a harsh regime. There's no cruelty or any attempt to demean anyone. It's not *The Hill*, but it's hard."

The military ethos of the camp, which is within the confines of the Military Corrective Training Centre for Army, Royal Navy and RAF offenders, is what Ann Widdecombe, the Prisons Minister, hopes will prove to be a telling step in tackling the problem of persistent offenders.

She said: "The Home Secretary and I have been impressed by what goes on at the MCTC. The sense of discipline, of smartness, of calm and, most importantly, of achievement, is clear as one walks around and talks to detainees.

"We decided that we would like to test whether the military approach to custody could benefit civilian young offenders and be effective in reducing the level of reoffending among them."

In spite of criticism within the Prison Service, officials pointed out that while there was 70 per cent recidivism among young civilian offenders, only 7 per cent of military detaines reoffended. Miss Widdecombe, who disclosed details of the venture in a parliamentary answer in the Commons earlier yesterday, found military staff anxious to prove her right when she visited the institution. At the glasshouse farm, where servicemen were concreting a new slurry base for the pigs, Staff Sergeant Mike Baron said: "Shovelling muck all day can be fairly arduous."

The farm and education centre, where motor maintenance, carpentry, bricklaying and decorating skills are taught, are intended to provide a purpose in life for the young offenders, who will spend six months with the Army after being judged suitable.

Compulsory gym each day, parade calls and inspections are intended to provide "backbone". Only bayonet drills and target practice will be absent from the civilian programme.

Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, who attended yesterday's open day, said: "This scheme is not intended to provide a source of ready recruits to the armed forces, as I have heard described. What we can do is pass on military skills to help the Prison Service deal with a worrying social problem. This is an important and exciting initiative. Self-confidence, self-esteem and self-belief can be imparted to civilians as well as military detainees and this is our aim."

The 32 will live in F-block, apart from military detainees, but will mix with servicemen for educational classes and vocational training. A barber will visit the block twice a week to ensure that haircuts are military length.

Richard Tilt, Director-General of the Prison Service, said: "I fully support the pilot scheme. It offers the opportunity to develop self-esteem and self-worth. This is an excellent training, custodial establishment."

The scheme, which will cost £28,700 per young offender compared with no more than £18,000 in a normal institution, will be kept under constant review.

Jack Straw, Shadow Home Secretary, described the initiative as an admission of the Government's failure to tackle youth crime.

Plea for calm after PC is shot in city's spiralling gang war

By Kate Alderson

A POLICE officer shot in his home by two masked gunmen may have been the victim of mistaken identity in a territory war between Liverpool drug gangs. The attack was the fifth shooting on Merseyside since Saturday.

Senior officers described the wounding as the "reckless, cowardly acts of barbarians" yesterday and appealed for calm across the city which last year recorded the nation's fastest-rising crime rate.

PC Stephen Hardy, 26, was asleep at home in West Derby, four miles from the city centre, with his girlfriend Caroline Kennedy and 12-month-old baby son when he was woken by a crashing noise downstairs. He believed he was being burgled but instead he was confronted by two gunmen and told to lie down on the bedroom floor. He was trying to dial 999 when both men opened fire with handguns. The officer was hit four times in the legs and arm.

The gunmen escaped from the modern cul-de-sac in a BMW car that was later found abandoned. PC Hardy, based at Marsh Lane police station, Bootle, had surgery at Liverpool's Fazakerley Hospital, where his condition was described as serious but stable. A man living on the estate said PC Hardy could have been the victim of a mistake; a known criminal lived in the area but had fled almost two weeks ago.

Hardy: wounded four times at home

James Sharples, the chief constable, said PC Hardy had not been involved in any major crime investigation or large operation since he joined the force in 1993, and added: "There are a number of different lines of inquiry." Mr Sharples said the spiralling gun violence of recent days had left him "desperately worried" and he warned criminals that they would be confronted with force by his officers.

"The behaviour by criminals in the city inevitably runs the risk of injury to innocent members of the public, as well as others. This will not be tolerated," he said.

Turf wars over the drug distribution business were believed to be behind many of the shooting incidents. Other factors, such as personality clashes, could also have triggered disputes.

The current spate of shootings began on Saturday, when three men were "kneecapped" after going drinking in a pub in Wavertree, two miles from the city centre. On Sunday a pregnant woman escaped unharmed after a house in Wavertree was sprayed with bullets in a drive-by shooting.

In the early hours of Tuesday morning, masked gunmen burst into two houses. Liam McGee, 18, was in bed with his girlfriend when he was shot in the legs four times in Anfield. A 24-year-old man was shot in the legs as he watched television in Bootle. Paul Stephenson, the assistant chief constable, described the gunmen as cowardly barbarians and said that police were facing a "very fluid, volatile situation".

Police will also look into possible links between recent attacks and events that followed last May's shooting death of David Ungi, 36, who was associated with a major gang in the Dingle/Toxteth area of Liverpool. There was an outbreak of tit-for-tat shootings as rival gangs battled for territory.

The power and wealth of the gangs was illustrated by Ungi's funeral procession, which almost equalled the east London turnout for Ronnie Kray's burial. There were 31 black limousines for mourners and £12,000 behind the bar for the wake.

Recorded crime rose by 12 per cent last year and drug trafficking alone rose by 60 per cent. In the past 15 months there have been five murders, 53 woundings, and 432 armed robberies on the Liverpool streets.

Three or four drug networks are believed to have formed round criminal clans. A senior detective said: "These are long-established groups who once burgled and robbed banks. Now they are in drugs. You see them wearing a lot of gold and driving BMWs."

Student 'chose to die in library'

By Oliver August

A STUDENT killed himself in his favourite library while reading about death in the Greek classics. Richard Metcalf, 18, was found dead at Winchester College days after winning a place to read classics at Oxford University, an inquest was told yesterday.

He surrounded himself with the works of Sophocles before taking a drug overdose and lying on a pile of cushions. His parents believe he was reading Sophocles's tragedy *Electra*, in which the heroine mourns the death of her father and her brother plots to kill their mother.

Richard's mother Carolyn, 41, decided to read *Electra* after her son's death to try to understand him. She said: "Richard had spent many months reclassifying the college library. He felt secure there and maybe that's why he chose to die there. It may have been his way of leaving some sort of legacy and becoming a permanent part of the college."

His father Philip, 40, said: "We believe Richard felt so happy at college he did not want to leave. Even though he was a brilliant academic he may have been too sensitive to face the adult world."

The alarm was raised by a fellow pupil at the £13,000-a-year school and an empty pill bottle was discovered in a rubbish bin at the library.

The inquest at Winchester was told that the student had taken an overdose of at least 39 Distalgesic painkilling tablets last January but did not leave a suicide note.

Richard, who worked as a college librarian, was last seen by Peter Roberts, his housemaster, on the night before his death. Mr Roberts said: "He was very fond of the library. Each week he dealt with the catalogue for the library, which was used by a small number of boys to work. The last time I saw him was at 11pm in one of the college's towers when I went to lock up the doors."

Richard had reorganised the small library at the top of the tower which caters for the school's 70 scholars. They had been asked by him to list the books they would like to have bought. His death came just after he had won a guaranteed place to study classics at Merton College. This should have taken all academic pressure off him, Mr Roberts said.

But Richard had suffered from a serious depressive illness and had been prescribed anti-depressants in 1994, although Dr John Davies, Winchester College medical officer, said he seemed to be over the illness last summer.

Dr Davies said: "It was agreed his academic programme should be made lighter. By September 1995 he appeared to be very positive and at that stage was off all medication."

An open verdict was recorded.

Duchess writes new future as marriage saga comes to end

By Emma Wilkins

THE Duchess of York is expected to trim her expenses, move into a converted stable block and take up her pen as a children's author again in order to make ends meet after her divorce.

With a modest sum of £500,000 awarded as part of her settlement, the Duchess is likely to exploit new markets in the Far East and America for her Budgie the Little Helicopter books and spin-off products.

Two new books about the adventures of a freckle-faced little princess will be published in America in October and further works are in the pipeline, according to publishing sources.

The financial future of Princesses Eugenie and Beatrice has been secured with a £1.4 million trust fund from the Queen, but the Duchess will need to reduce her personal living costs. She may choose to move from her rented house in Wentworth, Surrey, which costs £72,000 a year, to Sunninghill Park, the Duke's Berkshire residence. It is understood that initial estimates for converting the stables to domestic use have been reduced by £300,000.

The move would have its financial advantages: electricity, water and gas could be provided by the Duke and the couple might be able to pool their staff. At the moment the Duchess spends £32,000 a month on a team of servants.

Some reports have suggested that the Duchess was desperate to continue to be known as Her Royal Highness, but one friend said she was better off without the title.

"It frees her to be able to go around the world, getting publicity for her work and making money without worrying if it is embarrassing to the Royal Family at home."

The Duchess can look foward to publication of *The Royal Switch* and *Bright Lights* in America in October. The stories feature Amanda, an 11-year-old red-haired princess, and Emily, a poor little rich girl from Manhattan. The pair travel the world doing good deeds and getting into scrapes. Some sources said the publishing deal with Bantam Doubleday included an advance payment of £300,000.

The books will sell at $14.95 and merchandising is a possibility. "No formal merchandising deal has been made, but if the books are a success then it is certainly something that we would look at," a spokeswoman for Bantam Doubleday in New York said.

The Duchess's royalties from Budgie are expected to accelerate in the next few years. Fox Television has commissioned a fourth series of Budgie cartoons in a deal said to be worth £1.3 million. The little helicopter appears on merchandise from toys to mugs and t-shirts in more than 30 countries.

Sleepy Kids, the company which owns the worldwide animation and marketing rights for Budgie, made pretax profits of £973,000 for the year to October 1995. The forecast for this year is a £1.17 million profit, but that includes profits for the company's other cartoon characters, such as Potsworth.

Sleepy Kids has always refused to disclose the Duchess's share of the profits, but most industry experts estimate it at 15 to 20 per cent.

The next market for the Duchess to exploit is the Far East, which is said to have enormous potential. Japan is a bigger market than America for some cartoons and Thomas the Tank Engine is a great success in Tokyo.

The Duchess has recognised the potential of the Far East and is discussing ways of breaking into the market with businessmen in America and Hong Kong. David Tang, the Hong Kong Chinese multimillionaire, whose family fortune was founded with the Kowloon Bus Company, is a close friend and a committed supporter of her work. It is understood that the Duchess's discussions with Ray Chambers, a New Jersey millionaire, and his associates have concentrated on his contacts in the Far East. The Duchess emerged from her meeting with Mr Chambers in January declaring that her financial problems, then said to include debts of up to £3 million, were over.

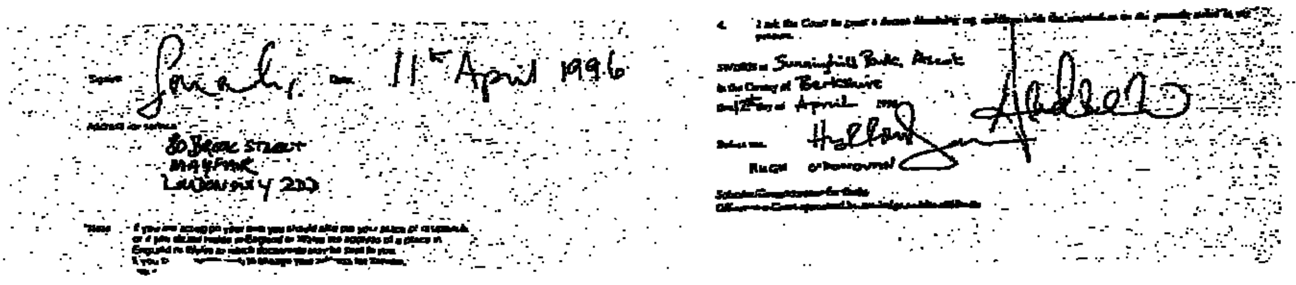
The subject of boyfriends remains a difficult issue for the Duchess, who will never escape the embarrassment of her liaison with John Bryan, her so-called financial adviser. The Duchess's latest beau is said to be Thomas Muster, a muscular Austrian tennis player whose former girlfriend blamed her for the couple's break-up.

It seems likely that whatever her romantic and financial future, the Duchess's staunchest friend will remain the Duke.

The Duchess was still wearing her wedding ring when she appeared in Switzerland yesterday

FABRICE COFFRINI

The Duchess of York faced a barrage of reporters and cameramen yesterday. Below: documents of the decree nisi


11th April 1996

A 'slight difference' in divorce court's day

By Frances Gibb

JUDGE Angel's court rarely excites the interest of the media. On perhaps half a dozen occasions in his time as senior district judge in London's principal divorce registry has it been the centre of attention.

Those occasions, as yesterday, were the endings of royal marriages or those with royal associations. In 1995, sitting in court two, he read out the decree nisi of Camilla and Andrew Parker Bowles; in 1992 that of the Princess Royal and Captain Mark Phillips.

In general, however, the activities of the divorce registry go largely unnoticed. Each day there are the decrees to be announced in open court by Judge Angel or one of his 18 colleagues. After that, it is off with wigs and gowns and into chambers to hear the host of applications relating to the Children Act, financial settlements or procedural matters in any legal actions.

Apart from the royal decrees, Judge Angel made the headlines once before when, in 1991, he accused divorce lawyers of carrying out costly and useless inquiries into parties' finances. He urged action to prevent cases such as the one in which a couple started with £400,000 and spent "a quarter of their fortune to become poorer".

Yesterday Robin West, chief clerk in the family proceedings department of the registry, would admit only that the day had been "slightly different" from the run of the mill.

High Court puts its seal of approval on the end of 58 broken dreams

By Stephen Farrell
and Joanna Bale

INFIDELITY, growing apart and concern for the children were among the causes given for 28 broken marriages listed in the High Court in London on the same day as the Duke and Duchess of York's.

Of 58 unhappy partners, the only one to appear in person at the three-minute hearing was Carlo Giambrone, an unemployed mechanic and self-confessed adulterer from Notting Hill, London.

Mr Giambrone, 28, objected to paying the costs of his wife's petition from his £74 fortnightly benefit. Expecting an empty courtroom, he was bewildered to find the end of his seven-year marriage the subject of intense scrutiny.

He and his Greek-Cypriot wife Andrulla, like the Yorks, stay in contact because of their sons Kristos, aged six, and Mario, nine months. Neither ever expects to marry again.

They met in a nightclub in the West End of London in 1987, married at Fulham Register Office two years later and celebrated properly at a traditional ceremony in Cyprus.

The honeymoon over, they returned to Britain to conditions very different from the Yorks, living in a dingy one-bedroom flat.

"I had to sleep on the sofa, and my wife had a single bed in a bedroom that was no bigger than an ordinary bathroom. It took us two and a half years to get out of there, and by then things were not so good," he said.

Mr Giambrone met another woman when his wife went on holiday in 1994, and he moved out.

Of the Duke and Duchess's divorce he said: "I can see a lot of similarities between our break-ups in that we both have children and we both remain friends. When you have got kids involved you have to be friends. They are so clever they can sense if there is any animosity between the two of you.

"I was surprised at all the attention. I didn't realise Andrew and Fergie were on the same list as me. It was a big surprise, all the fuss, and all I wanted was a quiet day."

Mrs Giambrone, 28, a social worker, described the early days of the marriage as "brilliant", but said her husband soon began to miss his single life. "Although he was very good at caring for his son he was never there for me," She said. "Prior to last month I hated him because I was very, very bitter at what he had done. But at the end of the day you have to have some kind of relationship for the sake of the children.

"Andy and Fergie will also know by now that you have to work at a marriage. But I married one man twice and I would never marry another man again."

Andrew Rothery, a London accountant working for Arthur Andersen, petitioned his wife Korina for a quickie divorce after moving out of the family home in Sidcup, southeast London, in November 1993. He now now lives in Lee, southeast London. Asked to state briefly the reason for the separation, his affidavit said simply: "Very little time spent together due to work commitments, and we had no interests in common.

"It was difficult to agree on things and there were a lot of arguments. During November 1993 it became clear that neither of us was able to live happily together and it was unfair on the children to be surrounded by unhappiness, so we agreed to separate," the affidavit continued.

He yesterday refused to elaborate, insisting it was a private matter. "It is far too embarrassing to talk about."

Carlo Giambrone: "All I wanted was a quiet day"

Brussels officials reaching for small print to defend beef ban

From Charles Bremner in Strasbourg and Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

THE European Commission brushed off Britain's legal challenge to the export ban on its beef yesterday but Brussels officials privately admitted that aspects of their case might not stand up in the European Court.

John Major is expected to press Britain's demands for an early lifting of the ban with Jacques Santer, the president of the European Commission, when they meet in Moscow later this week at the G7 nuclear safety summit. Mr Major requested the meeting in a letter sent to Mr Santer on Tuesday night.

"Mr Santer is very happy to talk to Mr Major and is very open to an exchange of views," a Commission spokesman said. "I think other heads of Government may well be involved. Mr Major will be heard by Mr Santer, but the Commission's position has been made very clear. We have a ban for which there is a legal basis and it will be for the European Court of Justice to deal with that matter."

In London, Welsh farmers said they would take up arms to protect their herds against further culling of their cattle if that was Europe's price for removing the ban.

Leading a 250-strong delegation to lobby MPs at Westminster, Bob Parry, the president of the Farmers' Union of Wales, declared: "The European Commissioner has said that British beef is safe to eat, so why are we suffering? Our farmers are willing to protect their animals by getting guns if it is necessary."

In Strasbourg, Lamberto Dini, the Italian prime minister, said the ban on British beef exports should be lifted when the scientific evidence showed that it was safe to do so. "We want the ban removed as soon as possible," he said.

Franz Fischler, the European Agriculture Commissioner, precipitated the British legal challenge by his statement last weekend that he would have no hesitation in eating British beef and his admission that the ban had been imposed in response to consumer panic and not on health grounds.

Gerard Kiely, Herr Fischler's spokesman, said there would be no reconsideration of the ban until Britain had presented detailed proposals for eradicating "mad cow" disease from the national cattle herd.

There is doubt about the legality of an embargo based on preserving public confidence and saving the EU beef industry from collapse. Article 129 of the Maastricht treaty covers consumer protection but it allows only for "action which supports and supplements the policy pursued by the Member states to protect the health, safety and economic interests of consumers." In an apparent reflection of this, the Commission yesterday said that public health was the central issue.

Legal experts were also combing the EU's founding treaties to justify the ban on exports to non-EU countries. Officials repeated that this was to protect consumers from the re-importation of suspect British beef.

☐ In France, Philippe Vasseur, the agriculture minister, accused Britain of reneging on a commitment to carry out an extensive slaughter.

French farmers to be compensated

The French Government is to pay compensation to the owners of 76,000 calves of British origin quarantined on French farms in the wake of the "mad cow" scare. The French Agriculture Minister Philippe Vasseur said that the animals would be destroyed over the next two or three months. French authorities have refused to allow calves of British origin into the country since March 28, following the British government's admission of a possible link between BSE and CJD.

BSE deaths 'could be two million'

By Michael Hornsby

A LEADING scientist alarmed and bewildered MPs yesterday with a barrage of statistics suggesting that the number of deaths from eating meat infected with "mad cow" disease could be as few as 10 or more than two million.

Dr Stephen Dealler, a consultant medical microbiologist, described the upper figure as "a worst-case scenario". He also said that the risk from eating beef now with new safeguards in place, was "absolutely minimal".

Dr Dealler offered the estimate at a joint session of the Commons Agriculture and Health Select committees called to consider the latest evidence on BSE and Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, the counterpart condition in humans. Others giving evidence included Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, Mr Keith Meldrum, the Chief Veterinary Officer, and Professor John Pattison, head of the Government's advisory committee on BSE.

When Edward Leigh, Conservative MP for Gainsborough and Horncastle, and a self-professed beef-eater, pressed Dr Dealler to say what his own chances of contracting CJD from BSE-infected meat were, Dr Dealler replied, to laughter: "Between zero and 100 per cent."

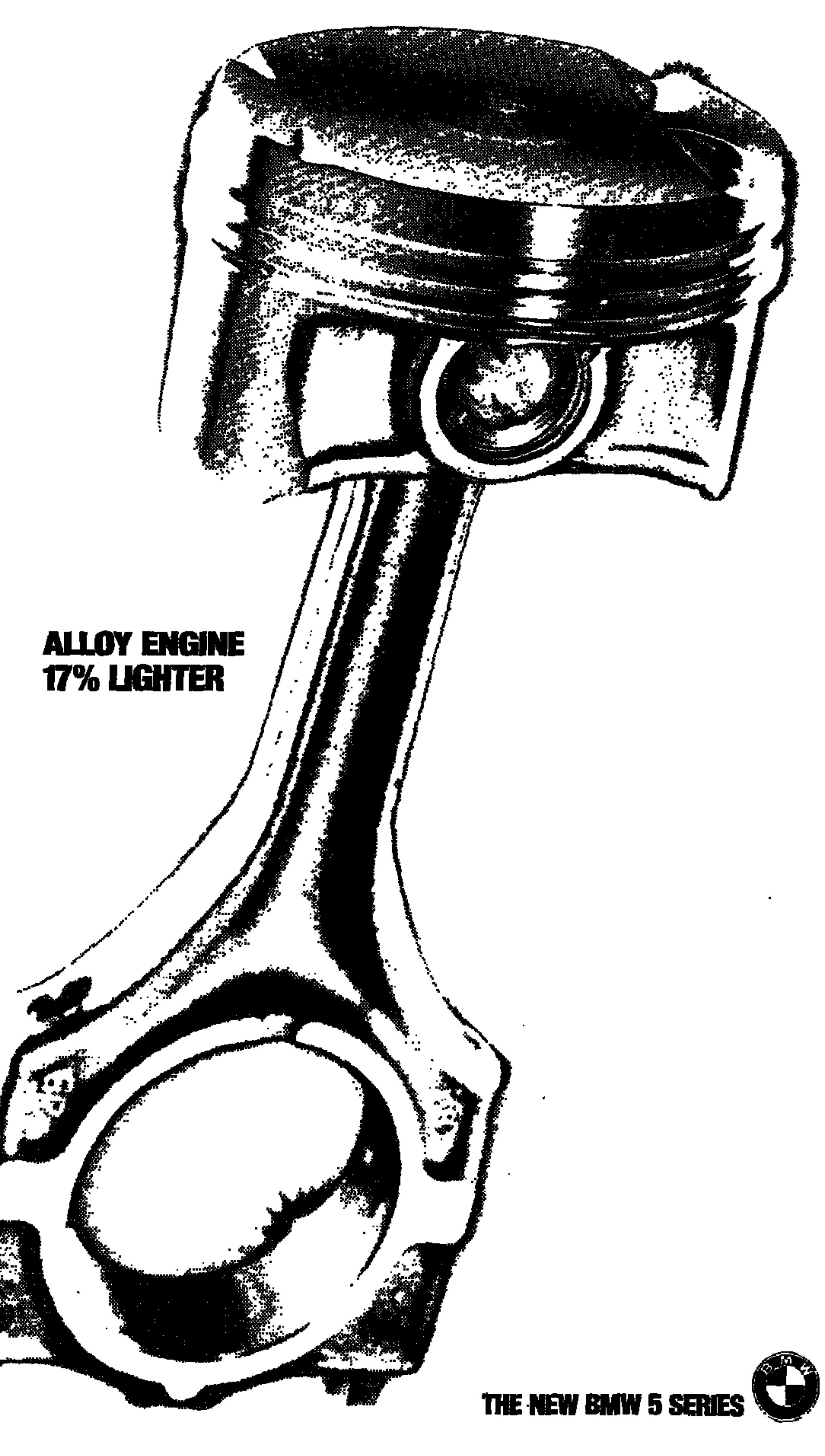
Professor Pattison told the MPs that Dr Dealler's figures represented the "possible range of what might happen", but added: "The longer we go on without a significant rise in the number of CJD cases, the greater the chance that [the number of deaths caused by BSE] will be at the low end of the range. I do not think the risk is as high as Dr Dealler thinks. It would be very surprising if there is no species barrier between cows and human beings. It would also be very surprising if [BSE] infection is ever found in muscle meat [as opposed to offal]."

Dr Dealler said he had arrived at his estimates by looking at the potential times when people might have become infected and the number of infected cattle likely to have entered the food chain each year. He assumed that no one would have been infected after November, 1989, when the offal ban took effect.

The committee also heard evidence from Dr Harash Narang, a clinical virologist who formerly worked for the Public Health Laboratory Service in Newcaste upon Tyne, who claims to have made a breakthrough in developing a test to detect BSE in the urine of live cattle. Dr Narang, who repeatedly clashed with Sir Kenneth and Mr Meldrum over his claims that the Government had obstructed his research, said: "The urine test, used on farms, could eradicate any remaining BSE by identifying cattle with the disease so that they could be removed."

The value of such a test is that it would avoid the need to destroy thousands of healthy animals merely to eliminate those with BSE. At present the disease can be confirmed definitely in cattle only by analysis of brain tissue after death.

Mr Meldrum said Dr Narang had failed to produce any evidence that his test worked. Sir Kenneth said Dr Narang's research had been taken seriously, but other scientists who had looked at earlier work of his on detecting nemavirus in brain tissue had been unable to repeat his experiments.



A 'slight difference' in divorce court's day

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Howard 'misused power' on Bulger killers' sentence

By Carol Midgley

MICHAEL HOWARD misused his powers and pandered to popular public outrage when he ordered that the schoolboy killers of James Bulger be detained for at least 15 years, the High Court was told yesterday.

The Home Secretary "erred in law" by treating Jon Venables and Robert Thompson, then aged ten, as if they were adults when he increased their minimum sentence from ten to 15 years, taking no account of social and psychiatric reports.

Edward Fitzgerald, QC, for Venables, said Mr Howard had also used a petition with more than 270,000 names organised by the Bulger family and thousands of letters from the public calling for a longer sentence as a basis for his decision. "A judge would throw them in the bin if he received a series of petitions from the public saying, 'When you sentence so and so, make sure you give him 15 years'," Mr Fitzgerald said. "What judge in the kingdom would say, 'I am going to pass a sentence of 15 years on a child without social or psychiatric reports'?"

Lawyers for Thompson, left, and Venables say the Home Secretary did not consider their welfare

Lawyers for the boys, who admitted abducting two-year-old James and murdering him beside a railway line in Merseyside in 1993, are seeking a judicial review of the Home Secretary's decision.

Mr Fitzgerald told Lord Justice Pill, sitting with Mr Justice Newman, that there was no challenge to the correctness of the convictions or the sentence that both boys be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure. The juveniles, now 12 and held at a secure unit in northern England, accepted responsibility "for the tragic death of their victim". But Mr Howard had wrongly exercised his discretion in requiring the boys to first serve a period of 15 years to "satisfy the requirements of retribution and general deterrence".

Mr Fitzgerald said the Home Secretary had misdirected himself that there was no difference between a sentence of detention during Her Majesty's pleasure, imposed on juveniles, and a mandatory life term given to adult murderers. This was contrary to the tradition of every civilised country that children should be treated differently to adults.

The QC accused Mr Howard of taking over the classic judicial function of sentencing. "No other country would have a situation such as this where a child as young as ten can have a punitive sentence imposed by a politician," he said.

After their trial at Preston Crown Court, Mr Justice Morland recommended that Venables and Thompson be detained for a minimum of eight years. He said that eight years was "very, very many years for a ten-year-old. They are now children, then they will be young men." Lord Taylor of Gosforth, the Lord Chief Justice, increased the minimum to ten years before Mr Howard's decision. In the letter announcing the increase, Mr Howard made no mention of the boys' welfare or rehabilitation, Mr Fitzgerald told the court.

The case continues.

JOEL CHANT

Wendy Jacobs with some of her new charges at Ewelme school yesterday

New head ends 550 years of tradition

By John O'Leary

WENDY JACOBS has swept away more than 500 years of tradition by landing the headship of Britain's oldest primary school. Mrs Jacobs, 34, a mother of two, is the first headmistress of Ewelme Primary School, in Oxfordshire, since its foundation in 1437.

The picturesque village school, with 40 pupils and two staff, claims the longest pedigree in primary education. Founded by Chaucer's granddaughter, teaching still takes place in the original buildings, beside a medieval church and alms houses.

Mrs Jacobs's appointment fulfills a career-long ambition. She first visited the school as a student at Reading University and was immediately drawn to the job when it fell vacant.

Barbara Blakeley, who chairs the governors, said they had not hesitated to break with tradition: "It was obvious that Mrs Jacobs had very high standards and any children who are taught by her will be very lucky."

Policemen save woman declared dead by doctor

By Paul Wilkinson

TWO policemen told yesterday of their shock when the leg of a woman pronounced dead by her doctor suddenly sprang to life. "I saw the left leg twitch and jump in the air and I was scared stiff," said PC Kevin Smith.

Last night Maureen Jones, 59, a diabetic mother of four grown-up children, was recovering in Scarborough Hospital after her ordeal. Dr Marion Meeson, her doctor, a GP with 16 years' experience, declined to comment.

PC Smith, 31, said the undertaker's hearse was already at the cottage in the Yorkshire Wolds village of Thwing, near Driffield, when he arrived last Monday night with PC Philip Shrimpton.

They went into the bedroom where Mrs Jones was lying face down on the floor. PC Shrimpton went to comfort relatives in the house when his colleague called him back to the bedroom.

PC Shrimpton, 36, said: "It was a frightening experience. To all intents Mrs Jones was pronounced dead and because of what happened we had to call into use our medical training." They gave her the kiss of life and applied heart massage. Mrs Jones was put into the recovery position until paramedics arrived.

No one had seen Mrs Jones, a widow, since the night before and it was only when her son Nigel, 33, a shepherd, called at her home in the evening that he found her collapsed in an apparent diabetic coma. He called Dr Meeson at her surgery in Hunmanby three miles away and she turned out immediately.

But soon after her arrival, Dr Meeson, who qualified at the University of Wales in 1980, declared Mrs Jones dead and advised her son to report the incident to the police as a sudden death.

Mr Jones said his mother could remember only going to bed on Sunday night and waking up in hospital.

Maureen Jones: she remembered nothing

WPC 'lost' eight years after arresting youth

A POLICEWOMAN lost all memory of the previous eight years after she was injured while arresting a drunken youth, a court was told yesterday. WPC Gaynor Whinton, 28, even forgot she was the mother of a two-year-old girl.

Stephen James, for the prosecution at Ilkeston Youth Court in Derbyshire, said WPC Whinton had a large bump on her head after helping colleagues to arrest the 17-year-old youth last June. In hospital she could not remember her name.

After the case WPC Whinton, who is still having treatment for amnesia, said the injury had had a devastating effect on her life. She was particularly upset at losing precious memories of her first two years of *motherhood*. "Rebecca is three in June. I can remember seeing her in hospital when she was brought to see me. It was odd seeing her because I didn't feel like I was her mother because I didn't remember having her. If I could remember anything, I would remember that."

The teenager pleaded guilty to assault while resisting arrest and was given four months' youth custody.

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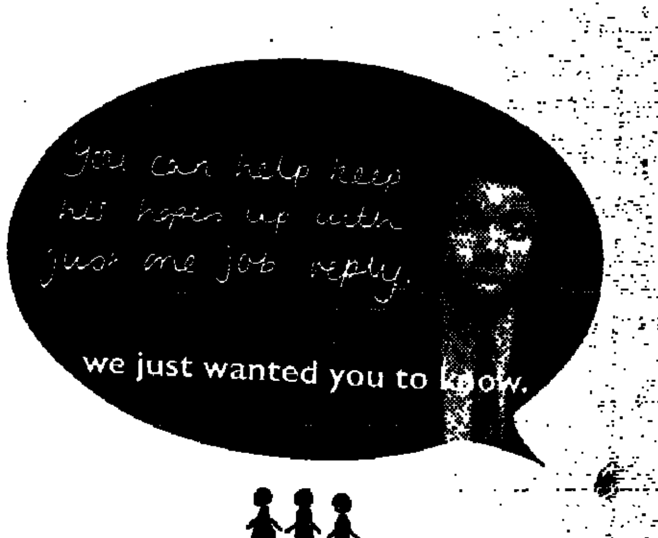
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Labour and Tories take aim in battle for town hall rule

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE two main parties opened their council election campaigns yesterday by trading insults and contradictory statistics about their respective records in local government.

After last week's by-election defeat, the Tories face the prospect of a further drubbing in what will be the last and most important test of popular support before the general election. They could lose as many as 500 of the 1,100 council seats they are defending on May 2.

All these seats were won just after the Tories' 1992 general election victory, when they polled 45 per cent of the vote, about 15 per cent ahead of Labour. Support for the Government has since dropped to just 28 per cent.

"We are going from a high in 1992," a Tory source said. "In a way, that is coming back and walloping us now."

However, opposition parties and election experts are playing down the prospect of a repeat of last year's Tory wipeout — when the party lost 2,000 seats — because this year's election is much smaller. In all, about 3,000 seats in 150 authorities are being contested: a third of the seats in 100 shire district authorities, 36 metropolitan district authorities and one unitary authority, Hartlepool. The 13 new shadow unitary authorities, which take over from present councils in April 1997, will hold elections for all their seats. There are no elections in London, Scotland or Wales.

As Labour and the Tories launched their campaigns yesterday, both parties refused to give detailed predictions of their chances. But Tony Blair, the Labour leader, said his party's "success on May 2 will be another blow to a weak and incompetent Government".

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, admitted: "There is certainly a challenge facing the party. I have made no secret of that."

A key Tory charge during the campaign will be that voters pay 50 per cent higher council taxes under Labour-controlled authorities. Dr Mawhinney said that in Band D houses, valued between £68,000 and £88,000, Labour charged £225 more than Tory councils. Liberal Democrat councils charged £139 more in the same band.

Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary, dismissed the claim. He said that in the 39 councils that Labour won last year, the average council tax rise was 6 per cent, well below the Government's forecast of 8 per cent. He also cited figures backed by the Audit Commission showing that the average council tax charged by Tory authorities was £536, compared with the £513 figure for Labour. "The Tories will seek to blame Labour for the council tax increases but local people know that the Government must shoulder most of the blame," he said.

Labour's campaign will focus on the quality of services, value for money and partnership between private and public sectors that the party says is provided by its authorities. Mr Blair said: "The people have lost their trust in the Government. I am confident that the local elections will show that people are placing their trust in new Labour."

The tenor of what will be a bitter campaign was evident when the Tories used piles of baked-bean tins to illustrate the higher council taxes in opposition authorities. Labour, the Tories said, were "has-beans" and the Liberal Democrats were "half-baked". Dr Mawhinney said: "We, however, are full of beans."

Ron Watson, chairman of the Tories' national local government advisory committee, said he saw a new determination among Tory activists to fight the elections hard. They would highlight the difference between Labour's national image and the reality they saw on the ground, where the trade unions were still dominant. "Most Labour councillors are unreconstructed socialists," he said.

Photograph, page 24

KEY CONTESTS

☐ The four Tory councils in the election: Huntingdonshire in the Prime Minister's constituency, Broxbourne in Hertfordshire, Macclesfield in Cheshire and Runnymede in Surrey.

☐ Three hung councils targeted by the Liberal Democrats: Tunbridge Wells in Kent, Wokingham in Berkshire and Stratford-on-Avon in Warwickshire.

☐ The former Tory stronghold of Basildon in Essex, now a hung council.

☐ The shadow unitary authority of Brighton and Hove. Labour won Hove Borough Council last year.

This is no way to win back the voters

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Brian Mawhinney's attack on Sue MacGregor on the *Today* programme yesterday was unjustified, exaggerated and, even worse, politically inept. But that is symptomatic of the nervousness and stridency among some at Conservative Central Office. They are adopting the wrong approach to win back the many voters who have deserted the Tories since the last election. Dr Mawhinney's outburst also ensured that attention was distracted from a highly significant raising of the standard of traditional Labour values by Robin Cook.

Attacking the *Today* programme is an easy, and shallow, way to win applause from Tory loyalists, who suspect the BBC and many of its interviewers of being dedicated to doing down the Government. But not only is it ludicrous to regard the scrupulously fair Ms MacGregor in this light, but her question drawing a parallel with 1990 and asking whether the Tories now needed to take similarly drastic action was entirely fair. Of course, John Major is not about to be "dumped" and, unlike a year ago, there is no speculation about the leadership now. It would be suicidal of the Tories even to contemplate such a coup. But Dr Mawhinney was wrong to regard the question as "smeary" as if the issue is not politically relevant.

Of course, his attack is part of an elaborate exercise of trying influence the broadcasters, and especially the BBC. Tory officials feel Labour secures more favourable coverage by constantly intervening with executives and programme editors. Labour certainly puts pressure on the broadcasters, but I do not believe this produces a bias in news coverage favour of Labour, as the Tories claim.

Much of the endless discussion about "spin-doctors", one of those often quoted terms which mean little, confuses attempts by the parties to influence coverage with bias by the broadcasters in favour of one party or another. Most broadcasters, as well as print journalists, listen to what the party propagandists say and ignore the more obviously partisan parts. The Tories' problem is the less specific, though equally insidious, one that Tony Blair has become fashionable, rather as Harold Wilson was in 1963-64, while the Major Government is unfashionable.

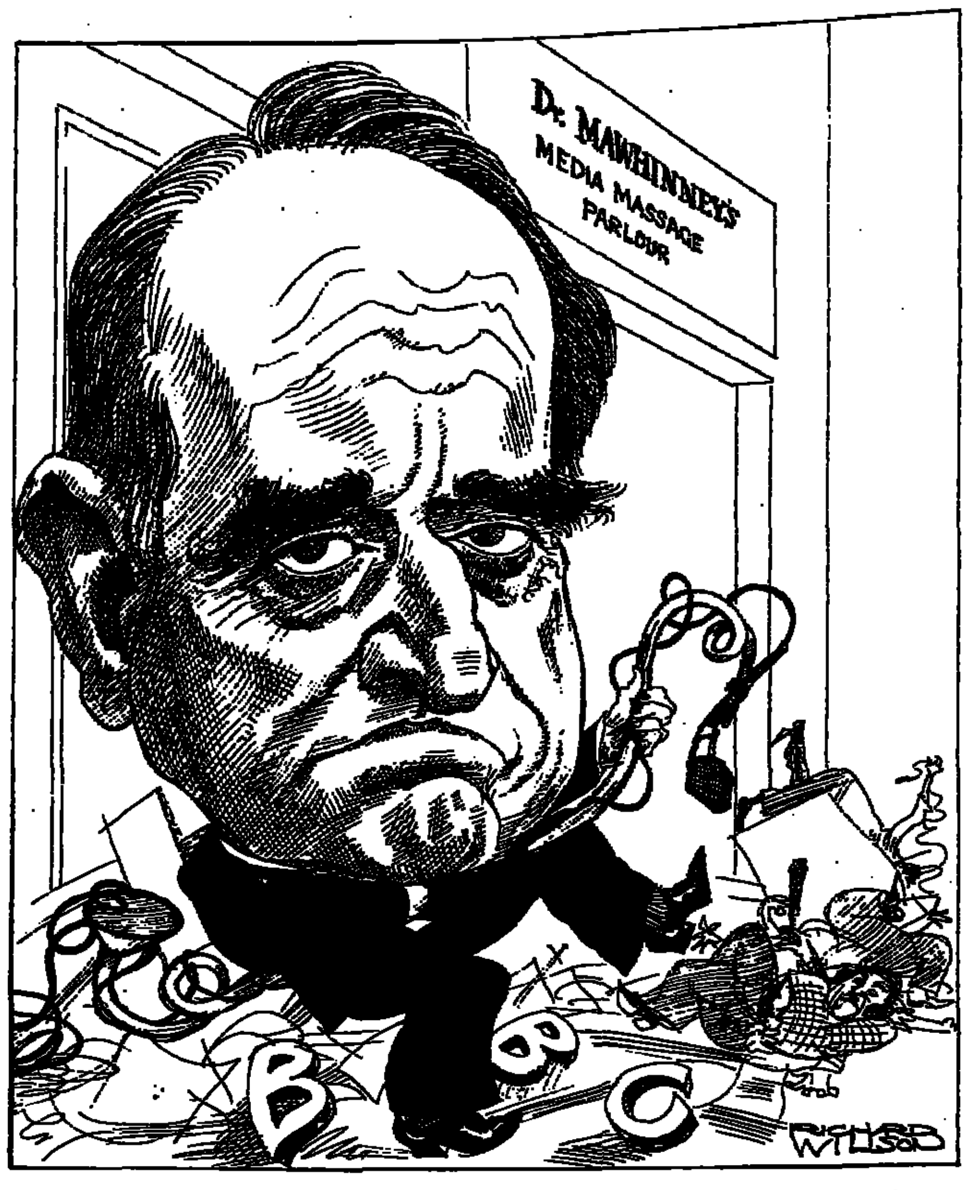
The Tory faithful in the shires and the suburbs who believe that the media, and the BBC in particular, are being unfair to them will cheer Dr Mawhinney. They will feel he is speaking up for Middle England Tories. But making your core supporters feel good, or at least self-satisfied, is not the way to win elections. The Tories need to appeal to the uncommitted and they will not do that by stridency. Sounding reasonable rather than aggressive is the way to win back former supporters.

Such attacks underline the impression of a party that is in a jittery mood after the Staffordshire South-East by-election and ahead of the local elections in a fortnight. Even in the short-term, Dr Mawhinney's outburst was counter-productive — and was seen as such by some other senior Tories — not least since it diverted attention from Mr Cook's speech to the Scottish TUC conference.

Mr Cook will be one of the most powerful figures in any Labour Government and, yesterday, he signalled that the party's traditional concerns with poverty and equality had not been forgotten. Nothing he said could justify stories about a split with Mr Blair. There is no difference on the details of policy. But the tone was very different from, say, Mr Blair's speech in New York a week ago. Mr Cook talked about trade union rights and public services in language that the Labour leader now does not use.

If Mr Blair is claiming the centre ground, Mr Cook is securing the left wing. But despite Mr Major's comments last night, the Tories seem mainly concerned with their right wing — forgetting that it is the centre which they have to reclaim.

PETER RIDDELL


Dr. MAWHINNEY'S MEDIA MASSAGE PARLOUR
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RICHARD WILLSON

Lib Dems predict strong showing

BY JAMES LANDALE

THE Liberal Democrats are predicting further gains in Tory heartlands at next month's local election.

Party officials say they have a good chance of winning control of town halls in Tunbridge Wells in Kent, Wokingham in Berkshire and Stratford-upon-Avon. The party needs to win only a handful of seats to take control of each of the three hung councils.

Andrew Stunell, political secretary to the Association of Liberal Democrat Councils, said the party could add four councils to the 51 that it already controls. "We are set to take places which in the English mind are Conservative beyond recall. Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells could well become a Liberal Democrat."

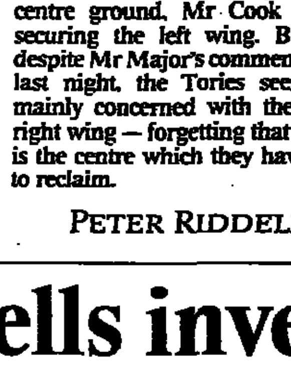
The party, which is defending 450 seats, could do this with just the 50 to 100 extra seats that he expected it to gain. Mr Stunell also said that John Major could see the loss of Tory-controlled Huntingdonshire in his own constituency. Of the 13 councils still controlled by the Tories, only four hold elections on May 2. The other three are Runnymede in Surrey, Macclesfield in Cheshire and Broxbourne in Hertfordshire.

However, Mr Stunniell was cautious about predictions of huge Tory losses. Although the Tories would lose 550 of the 1,100 seats they are defending if the electorate votes as it did last year, he believes that Tory supporters who have previously abstained will vote this time. "Even if their team is about to be relegated, they will go to the last match," he said.

Paddy Ashdown was confident the Liberal Democrats would strengthen their position as the second party of local government. The party leader said the Liberal Democrats had put "a breath of fresh air in Britain's town halls" and now run four times as many councils as the Tories. Their election document, *Putting Principles into Practice*, was a manifesto for greater democracy, better education and care for the environment.

Short tells investors to be wary of rail sell-off

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT



Short: survived Tory taunts over tax row

TORY attempts to embarrass Clare Short over her support for higher taxes for middle-income earners fizzled out yesterday. Only a dozen Tory MPs were in the chamber for the Shadow Transport Secretary's first Commons speech since being criticised by Labour spin-doctors.

Ms Short, opening a debate on the sale of Railtrack, took the sparsely attended Tory benches by surprise when she declared: "I would like to say a word on tax."

To cheers from her own back benches, she said: "The cost of privatising the railways amounts to an extra £106.38 for every taxpayer in the country. This is equal to an extra 1p on the basic rate of income tax."

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, compared Ms Short with Harriet Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, who had defied Labour policy by sending her son to a grammar school. He said: "The one is endorsed for acting like a Tory, the other rebuked for speaking like a socialist."

Ms Short urged wavering Tory MPs to support Labour's amendment calling on the halt of the sale in the first test of the Government's strength since its majority was reduced to one. She said that potential investors should be aware that a Labour government would use the regulator to impose controls on railway investment and asset disposal. "The use of regulation to protect the national interest will change the likely rate of return to shareholders."

Brian Wilson, a Labour transport spokesman, referred to a leaked letter on April 2 from John Welsby, the British Rail chairman, who said that the prospectus was "misleading and deficient". No alteration had been made. Mr Wilson said: "A Stock Exchange inquiry is required to find what the truth of the matter is."

Sir George said that the directors of Railtrack had a duty to ensure that the prospectus was in accordance with the facts. "I'm confident that the prospectus which issues on May 1 will fully satisfy those requirements."

He was scornful of Labour's alternative to privatisation, higher investment without saying where the money would come from. "Perhaps from higher taxes on MPs? Under a privatised railway, the costs of funding the investment will no longer fall on the taxpayer. Privatisation would reverse decades of decline. "It's a win-win situation."

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY In the Commons: backbench debates; trade and industry questions; rail privatisation. In the Lords: policies to cut recurring unemployment; beef crisis; Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, committee; Disabled Persons and Carers (Short-term Breaks) Bill, second reading.

TODAY in the Commons: questions to Treasury ministers and the Deputy Prime Minister, standing in for John Major; Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations Etc) Bill, second reading; backbench debate on the Commonwealth Institute. In the Lords: Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Bill, report; Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, committee.

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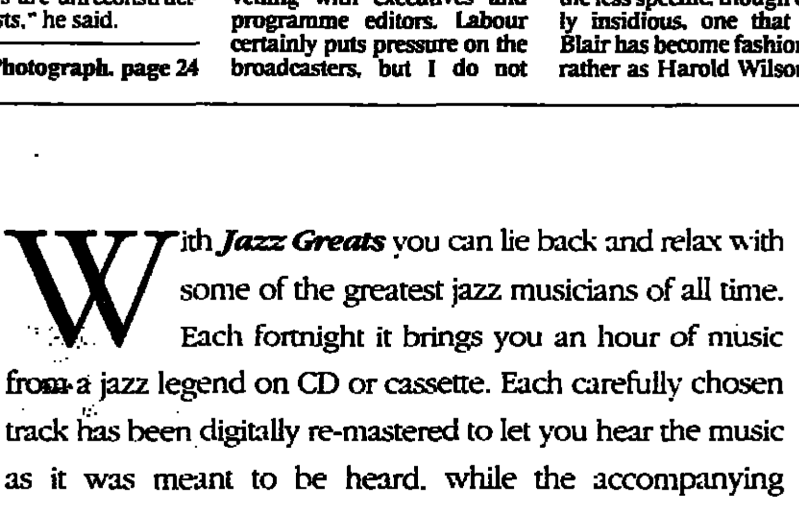

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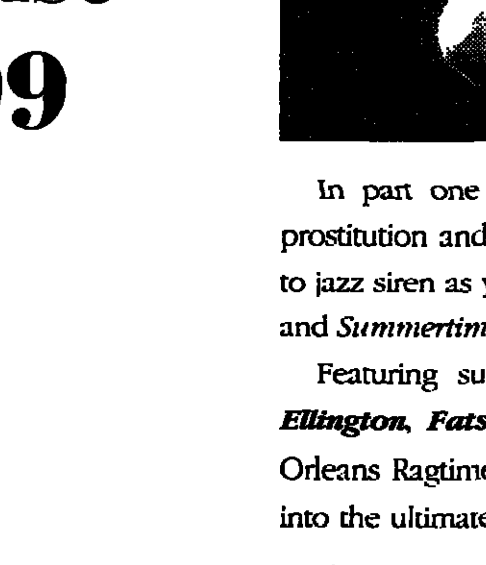

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SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES

Does your dog need a personal trainer?

Frances Bissell on cross-cultural cooking

Derwent May on good news for bird lovers

How to win a Philippe Starck chair

New research backs syndrome claims by Gulf War veterans

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A COMBINATION of chemicals used to protect soldiers from nerve gas and desert insects during the 1991 war with Iraq could have caused neurological damage, according to new research into the so-called Gulf War syndrome.

Gulf War veterans in Britain said yesterday the American research was the "next step" towards providing conclusive proof of the existence of a war-related syndrome.

The possible explanation for sicknesses suffered by thousands of British and American Gulf War veterans follows research into the effects of a cocktail of chemicals on chickens. The researchers found that although individual doses of the chemicals had no side effects, even in far larger amounts than those given to soldiers, when administered together they proved highly toxic.

The combination of two pesticides, DEET and permethrin, and the anti-nerve gas agent pyridostigmine bromide, caused neurological problems in the chickens similar to the symptoms found in around 30,000 American Gulf War veterans. The symptoms include memory loss, headaches, fatigue, muscle and joint pain, shortness of breath and tremors.

The research by scientists at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas, is being presented this week at the Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology and will be published next month in the *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health*.

Dr Mohamed Abou-Donia, a pharmacologist at Duke University, said that the chemicals were used to protect the soldiers from diseases such as malaria and leishmaniasis, which could have caused thousands of deaths.

However, he said: "It appears that, for some veterans, the precautions prevented one set of problems and created another. Now our task is to analyse the veterans' symptoms by investigating all the potential causes, not only for their sakes but for the welfare of future soldiers."

Dr Abou-Donia admitted the study on chickens did not prove the chemical cocktail affected people. However, his partners at the University of Texas had carried out epidemiological studies on soldiers which were consistent with the animal data, he said. The Texas scientists declined to release their results until the research was published.

The Gulf Veterans' Association in Britain said the Ministry of Defence had so far failed to carry out specific research and had merely completed a clinical study. A spokeswoman added that the committee of experts brought in to pursue further studies did not include a neurologist.

BBC producer Ric Blaxill with newcomer Bear van Beers, who bombarded him with calls and videos

Bear cheek takes unknown straight to the top

A MODEL from Holland is to present the TV chart show *Top of the Pops* tonight after months of bombarding a BBC producer with phone calls, faxes and videos of her work (Alexandra Frean writes). She is the first "unknown" to host the 32-year-old programme.

Bear van Beers, 23, has appeared in a number of commercials and minor Dutch TV shows, but said it had been her life-long ambition to appear on *Top of the Pops*: "I have watched it ever since I was a little girl. I love it."

The programme's producer, Ric Blaxill, finally decided to give her a chance after tonight's scheduled presenter, Lisa l'Anson, had to pull out. "I could tell she had the attitude, looks, intelligence and personality," he said. "When I called her home in Holland she couldn't believe it." Miss van Beer speaks four languages, studied journalism in Los Angeles and is studying film and television arts in Amsterdam.

Stand-in sheriff dismisses 'trivial' Skye toll offences

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

SKYE BRIDGE protesters who pleaded guilty to non-payment of tolls were admonished yesterday and let off by a sheriff who told them that their offences were so trivial that they did not merit an appearance in his court.

Sheriff Ian Cameron, standing in for Sheriff James Fraser at Dingwall Sheriff Court, told 170 protesters that their cases should really be heard in the lower district court. He said he was not interested in the political aspects of the case but only in the criminality of the non-payment.

His leniency surprised the protesters, who had been told by Sheriff Fraser that each non-payment of the £4.30 toll would attract a £30 fine.

Sheriff Cameron told Allan MacDonald, 63, a retired Skye headmaster: "These are trivial sums involved. It's a bit like the non-payment of TV licences but not so serious."

He admonished Mr MacDonald on all three offences. Twelve others who pleaded guilty got the same lenient treatment. Most of the protesters maintained their not-guilty pleas at the intermediate hearing. They will be summoned for trial next month.

The protesters have campaigned vigorously against the tolls for the £25 million bridge, which was opened in October and funded by the private sector. Some have crossed the bridge on dozens of occasions without paying. The charges against them have been brought under the New Roads and Streets Act 1991 and carry a maximum penalty of £1,000 per offence, or a jail sentence.

One protester, Andy Anderson, 57, from Skye, has already been fined £150 after being found guilty of five offences by Sheriff Fraser. He has appealed to the High Court in Edinburgh.

The protesters had been angered by a decision to summon them in person to the court for them to reaffirm their pleas but yesterday Sheriff Cameron only laughed when he heard that one protester had been unable to keep the appointment.

After the hearing, Myrna Scott Moncrieff, who is leading the protest, said: "I am surprised at the outcome. I'm glad the rest of us stood firm and resisted the temptation to plead guilty and get off with only being admonished. However, Sheriff Cameron seems like a very reasonable man."

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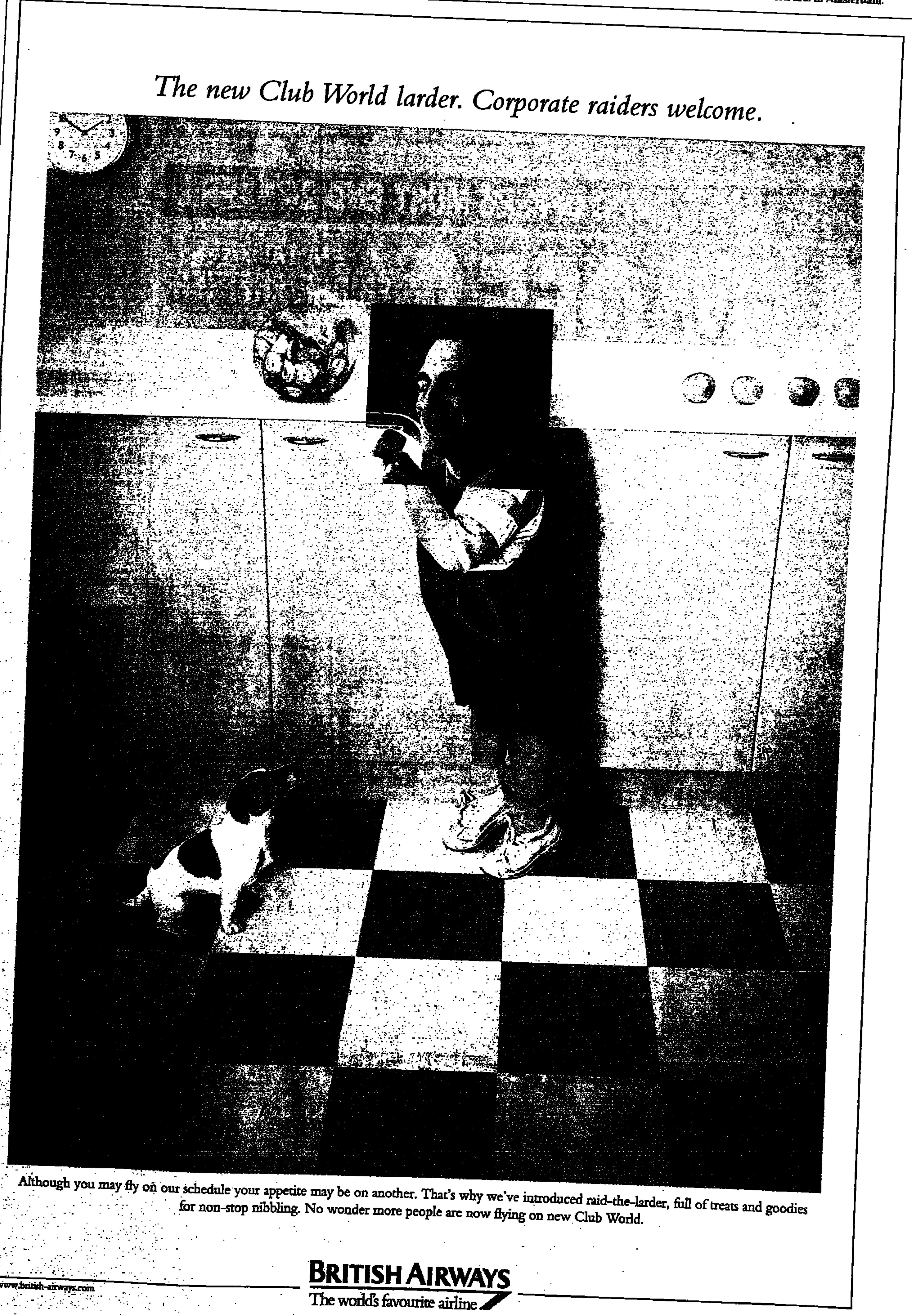

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'Apologise or quit' call to heritage chief who mocked patrons

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

Sir Hugh, left, and Sir Jocelyn: knock-on effect

AN eminent figure in the art world yesterday urged Virginia Bottomley to seek the resignation of Sir Jocelyn Stevens as chairman of English Heritage unless he apologised publicly for mocking patrons of London's Kenwood House as "people with too much time".

Sir Hugh Leggatt expressed outrage that Sir Jocelyn had insulted people who selflessly devoted themselves to the nation's heritage. He said: "He's behaved disgracefully."

Sir Hugh is a former commissioner for the Museums and Galleries Commission, and honorary adviser to the national portrait galleries of England and Scotland. He was responding to comments made last Sunday by Sir Jocelyn after the Friends of Kenwood House expressed concern that English Heritage had neglected its responsibilities for the historic building on Hampstead Heath. They called for a full-time curator to be reinstated, arguing that one of the nation's most important collections of Old Masters, including works by Vermeer and Rembrandt, set in a Robert Adam interior, needed full-time attention.

Hours after a unanimous motion was passed by the Friends, Sir Jocelyn dismissed them as troublemakers with "too much spare time", and added: "We don't actually need the Friends if they're going to behave like this."

Yesterday Sir Hugh said that it was "very distasteful" of Sir Jocelyn to have singled out Lord Hutchinson, QC, and George Levy, a leading antiques dealer, who are respected throughout the art world for their passionate commitment to heritage.

Sir Jocelyn attacked them as "people with plenty of spare time" who "have got used to the impression that they run Kenwood" and said: "The Friends are not behaving like friends. They are behaving in a very aggressive manner."

The family of Edward Cecil Guinness, the 1st Earl of Iveagh (1847-1927), who bequeathed the collection to the nation, is known to be "very upset and deeply concerned about the way that Kenwood is being run. Sir Hugh said: "He shouldn't have attacked the very people who care so much. Even if he does have a difference of opinion, he should talk about it. Unless he apologises, the Minister should ask him to resign. It is Virginia Bottomley's job to oversee such matters."

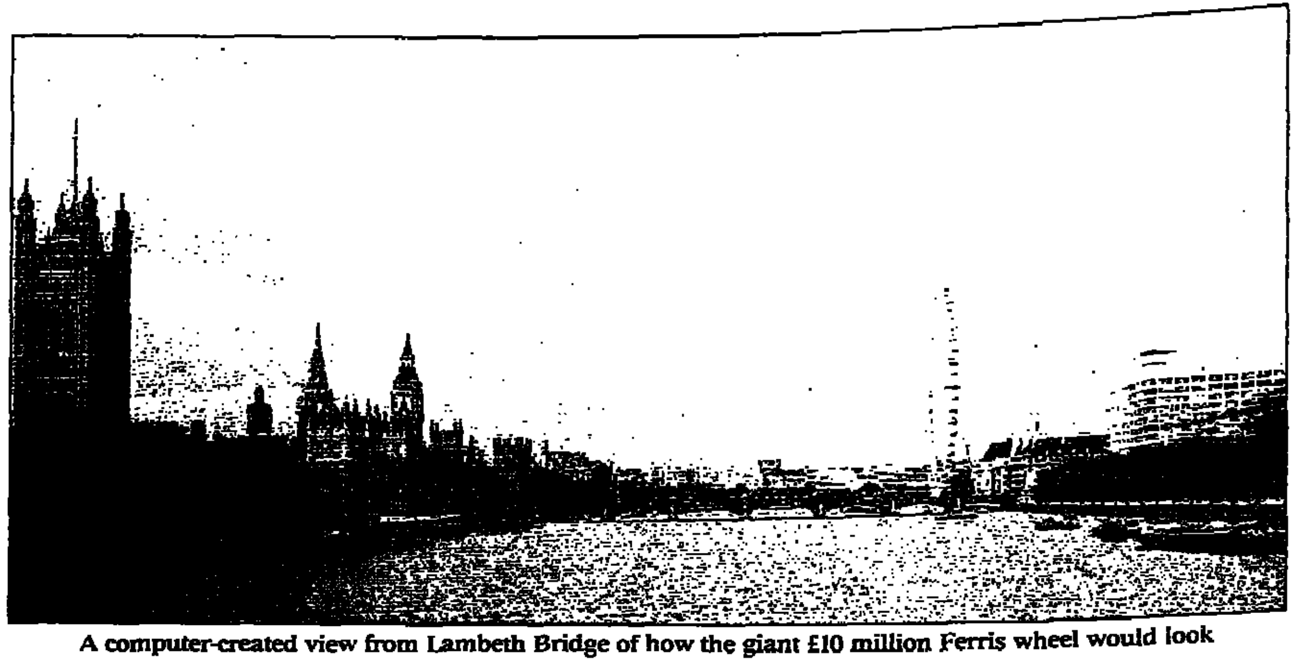
Beyond Kenwood, he said, Sir Jocelyn's remarks could do untold damage to the voluntary sector on which every arts institute relies heavily. "It isn't just Kenwood he's letting down. It is so difficult raising funds. These institutions desperately need Friends. Hundreds of people up and down the country give their services and their cash to help the national, local authority and university institutions. They need to be encouraged, not discouraged. Such comments have a knock-on effect.

"Gratuitous public criticism from the chairman of English Heritage is both shocking and counter-productive. As chairman of such an important quango, an immediate public apology is vital.

"The Heritage Minister should not only dissociate herself from Sir Jocelyn's aggressive strictures, but make it clear that the Government is wholly supportive of individuals who give so much to help preserve our national patrimony."

A spokeswoman for English Heritage said: "We don't feel there is anything for the chairman to apologise about."

Diary, page 20



A computer-created view from Lambeth Bridge of how the giant £10 million Ferris wheel would look

Traditionalists try to put a spoke in London's millennium wheel

By Jonathan Prynn

TRADITIONALISTS and modernists from the architectural world clashed yesterday over the proposed siting of a 500ft Ferris wheel on the South Bank in London to celebrate the millennium.

Plans for the £10 million structure were condemned by Lord St John of Fawsley, chairman of the Royal Fine Arts Commission, as "wholly unsuitable" for the riverside location, almost opposite the Palace of Westminster.

He said: "The 500ft-diameter wheel will be a third as high again as the Shell Centre, virtually twice the height of Big Ben and approximately the height of the British Telecom Tower. It would have a damaging visual impact on the Royal Parks, the surrounding Grade I listed buildings and the World Heritage Site of Westminster Abbey and the House of Parliament."

However, two of Britain's most distinguished architects, Sir Richard Rogers and Sir Norman Foster, and the designer Sir Terence Conran were positive. Sir Terence said: "Cities need big symbols and the wheel seems to have all the fizz that the millennium is supposed to have."

Detailed plans for the wheel, described as London's Eiffel Tower, were unveiled yesterday by British Airways, which is sponsoring the project and putting more than £600,000 into the scheme.

The wheel, which will be the highest of its kind in the world, would dominate the central London skyline from its Jubilee Gardens site close to the South Bank arts centre.

It would carry up to 2,500 passengers an hour at £5 a head in 60 enclosed capsules passing within yards of the site of a new luxury hotel being developed at the front of County Hall, the former GLC headquarters. From the top of the 20-minute ride, passengers would be able to see for 30 miles, from Luton in the north to Tunbridge Wells in the south. It would dominate the riverscape for at least five years before being moved to a new site.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, gave his blessing to the project but said the wheel should be moved away from County Hall so that it did not impede the view of the Grade II listed building. The planning committee of Lambeth Borough Council is unlikely to meet to consider the application before June. The final decision is likely to rest with the Secretary of State for the Environment.

David Marks and Julia Barfield, the architects behind the project, hope to start work on the wheel before the end of the year with an opening ceremony in April 1999. More than half the energy to drive the ride could be generated by tidal power from turbines in the Thames. The steel structure has been designed to withstand winds as strong as any recorded in London over the past hundred years.

Bob Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, said: "It will be for the millennium what the Crystal Palace was for the 1851 Great Exhibition."

Sell-off revives Church assets

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

THE Church of England has sold buildings worth millions of pounds to repair the damage done by property speculation in the 1980s.

The sales, and a tightly controlled investment strategy, mean the Church has almost fully recovered from its £800 million losses on the property market.

The MetroCentre in Gateshead has been sold for an £80 million profit, as well as the Marlowes shopping centre in Hemel Hempstead and Beechwood Place in Cheltenham. In America the Commissioners, who manage the Church's assets, have sold office buildings and development land for more than book value.

The sales, disclosed in the annual report for 1995, illustrate that the Commissioners are fulfilling their pledge to increase investments in stocks and shares at the expense of property. Total asset value increased by £300 million in 1995 to £2.7 billion. Property assets fell from 58 to 39 per cent of the total.

Last year the Commissioners sold 2,957 acres of land in Britain for £22.8 million, of which more than half was development land. Residential sales totalled £15.9 million, mainly long leases on its Hyde Park estate in London. One hundred and nine vicarages were sold, a slight decline on 1994.

Many acres of glebe land, managed by dioceses and usually rented out, were also sold, generating £16.6 million. However, £6.6 million was reinvested in glebe land and £2 million in clergy housing. A further £25.8 million was raised by selling redundant churches and sites. The Commissioners reported a "short-term" fall in net income, from £145.2 million in 1994 to £137.4 million.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pilot held after drugs discovered

The pilot of a light aircraft whose passenger was critically injured by its propeller after an emergency landing has been arrested on suspicion of smuggling drugs. The Cheetah aircraft, flying from Holland to Gloucestershire on Tuesday, came down in a field near Basingstoke, Hampshire. A box containg 20kg of cannabis worth £60,000 was found near by. Customs officials could not say if the two events were connected.

Burns boy dies

A three-year-old boy, who survived for two months after suffering 94 per cent burns, has died. Adam McKelvie was found inside his burnt-out home in Corby, Northamptonshire, on February 10. His mother died in the blaze.

Fraud charge

Inspector David Currie, 36, and Tracey Kember, 24, a police worker, from Gravesend, denied conspiracy to defraud Sainsbury's by allegedly tendering outdated vouchers. Bail for both was continued by Maidstone Crown Court.

Inquest refused

A coroner has refused a full inquest into the deaths of six crew of a trawler that sank off Cornwall in 1991. He said all the evidence was aired when one of the *Pescado*'s operators was cleared and another convicted of manslaughter.

Driver's plunge

A motorist drove to his death over the 80ft Marsden Bay cliffs on south Tyneside after apparently phoning police to say he was going to jump. Officers saw a car speed over the edge into the sea. A man's body was later recovered.

Line of inquiry

A signalling error has been blamed for an electric InterCity train with 200 passengers being stranded for 83 minutes on a non-electrified line outside Basingstoke, Hampshire, on Tuesday. Railtrack is holding an inquiry.

Jurors warned

Mr Justice Curtis warned jurors at the Old Bailey to ignore extensive media reports over the death of Stephen Lawrence, 18, whose parents have brought a private murder prosecution against three men. The trial continues.

Talked out

Gary Jacobs, a lawyer who hosted a Sunday night show on Talk Radio, has resigned after being asked to include advice on gardening, DIY and motoring. His departure comes after that of Simon Bates and Jonathan King.

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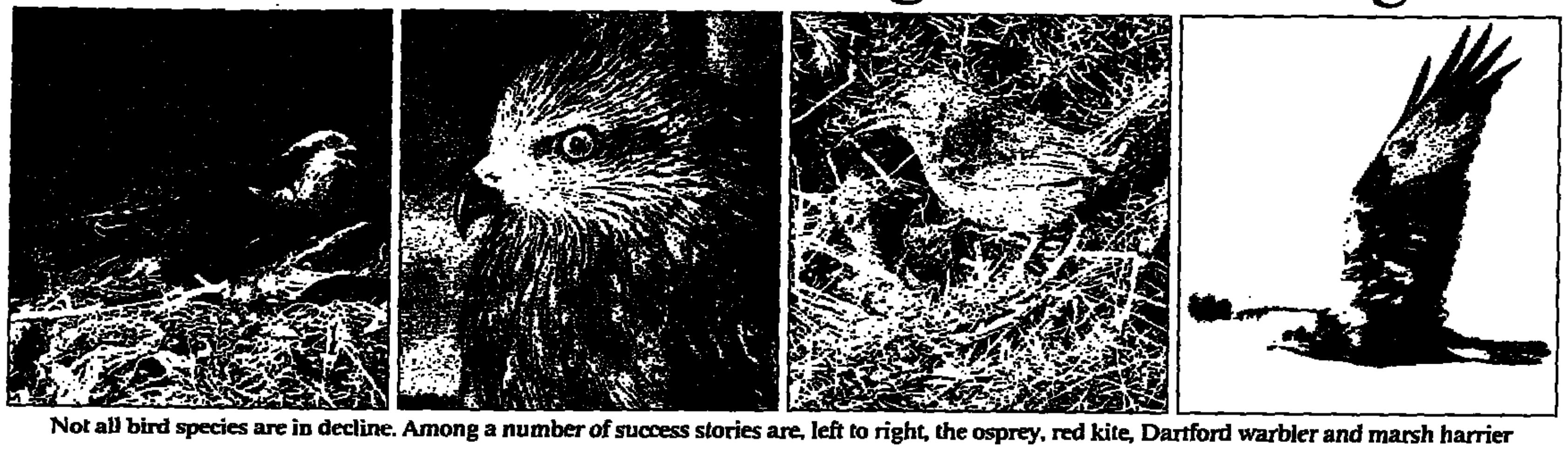
صورة من الاصل

In ten years, common bird populations have plummeted. They include, left to right, song thrush (down 73 per cent), linnet (52 per cent), skylark (58 per cent), grey partridge (82 per cent), tree sparrow (89 per cent) and turtle dove (77 per cent)

Songbirds fall silent under onslaught of farming and pollution

By Nick Nuttall
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT



Not all bird species are in decline. Among a number of success stories are, left to right, the osprey, red kite, Dartford warbler and marsh harrier

MILLIONS of songbirds are disappearing from gardens and the countryside, the victims of intensive farming, pollution and building. A detailed survey of the 280 species found in the British Isles — including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man — has found that the decline of birds such as the skylark, linnet, song thrush and tree sparrow has accelerated during the 1990s.

Ten years ago, eight birds were on the nation's red list of vulnerable species. Dr David Gibbons of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said yesterday that it had since been necessary to add many once-common birds to the danger list, swelling the number to 36.

Some less well-loved birds have increased in number, partly because fewer people are working in the countryside, which makes them less likely to be shot as pests. Among them is the magpie, up 268 per cent since the 1960s to 650,000 pairs, and the carrion crow, up 140 per cent to a million pairs.

The report has been compiled by the RSPB, the National Trust, the British Trust for Ornithology, the Game Conservancy Council, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, the wildlife trusts, Birdlife International and the Hawk and Owl Trust.

They find that ten years ago the status of the spotted flycatcher gave little cause for alarm. The survey shows that numbers have slumped by 73 per cent in the past 25 to 27 years to 130,000 pairs: indications are that at least 23 per cent of this decline has occurred since the late 1980s. The skylark population is down 58 per cent to 2.1 million pairs; the grey partridge 82 per cent to 145,000 pairs; the tree sparrow 89 per cent to 110,000 pairs; the turtle dove 77 per cent to 75,000 pairs; the song thrush 73 per cent to 1.1 million pairs; and the linnet 52 per cent to 540,000 pairs.

Dr Gibbons said: "The chances of seeing these birds in your garden are now far less than they were a few years ago because less are surving in the countryside, especially on farmland."

Dr Mark Avery, chairman of the RSPB's Birds of Conservation Concern Working Group, said: "The fate of bird species acts as a barometer of the health of the environment. There are now more than twice as many species which are rapidly declining than there were ten years ago. Things are getting worse rather than better."

He said intensification of agriculture was largely to blame: it was destroying habitats, increasing pollution, crushing some ground-nesting birds' eggs during the breeding season, and altering the availability of food.

Road building and the noise from traffic have also taken their toll, as has the spread of housing, particularly in the South of England.

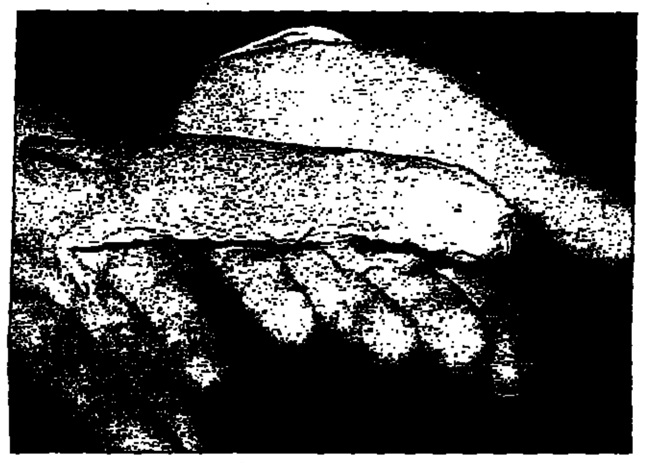
While the future for songbirds looks bleak, other species, many on the red list, have benefited from measures taken on their behalf. They include programmes of reintroduction from the Continent, better protection against persecution and egg thieves and more sensitive management of conifer woodlands. Milder winters have also helped.

The red kite has increased from 20 pairs to 160; the osprey from seven to 99; and the Dartford warbler from 560 to 1,600. Since 1969, marsh harriers have increased from three pairs to 100, thanks to the elimination of DDT and immigration from The Netherlands, where land reclamation hit the birds' habitat.

The songbird survey precedes the Government's response to the Biodiversity Steering Group report, published earlier in the year, which set out costed action plans to restore numbers of the most threatened species. The authors of the bird survey are urging the Government to ratify the steering group's report in an attempt to head off a fatal collapse in Britain's songbird population.

The naked truth: fat and lazy males are winning the rat race

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR



The naked mole rat: "ugly but magnificent"

BEING a selfish, lazy, fat male need not be a handicap. According to a new study, these are the very qualities that make for a sense of adventure — if you are a naked mole rat.

This mammal, which fascinates biologists because it lives more like an insect, is found beneath the soil of East Africa. Naked mole rats — which are neither moles nor rats — dig out complex burrows where they establish colonies in which only the queen bears young.

About three inches long and weighing one or two ounces, they belong to the same zoological classification as porcupines, guinea pigs, chinchillas and coypus. Those with the most unappealing characteristics are most likely to found new colonies, a study in South Africa has found. Their fatness, indeed, may help them to survive until a new colony is established.

Like bees and ants, naked mole rats have a strict division of labour. Most of them spend their time digging to find food for the rest of the colony. They live on tubers, accessible only when the ground is wet after rain. Only by collaborating can they find enough food. Mole rat colonies are deeply inbred. Among animals, they are the nearest thing to a clone, as genetically alike as identical twins. But Dr Justin O'Rain and his colleagues at Cape Town University have found that there are a few who stand out from the crowd. These are the "dispersers" — the few inspired to leave the burrow for pastures new.

Normal mole rats are hostile to those from other colonies, but the dispersers have higher levels of hormones than their burrow-mates and try to mate with strange females. Within the colony, the dispersers collaborate only reluctantly with the common tasks and are more inclined to wander abroad, the team reports in *Nature*.

Although the colonies are effective in providing a way of life in inhospitable conditions, they cannot survive for ever without the odd individual striking out. Only a few males in any colony get the chance to mate with the queen and the dispersers often apply for the job in colonies where the breeding male has died.

The team collected its data by observing 48 colonies of captive rats, containing in all about 1,000 individuals. They made a single opening in the burrow and watched which animals left. Only six of the colonies had any dispersers and 95 per cent of them were male. What triggers the wanderlust is not clear. It may be genetic or it may be the age and composition of the colonies, the team says. The chances are that from time to time environmental conditions may promote dispersals in which the adventurous rats invade neighbouring colonies or find a few allies to form a new colony.

Setting out alone is remarkable for one of these animals because, unlike other mammals, they do not have a way of regulating their temperature. When they get cold, the only recourse is to huddle together three or four deep. This may be another reason why the dispersers tend to be fat, to protect them from the cold in solitude.

The limited sex lives of mole rats and the fact that they live permanently in the dark means that they have never needed to develop features that would attract mates. But beauty is in the eye of the zoologist. Dr Paul Sherman of Cornell University told *The New York Times*: "There's something charming, even magnificent, about these animals. What we regard as ugly is really a bundle of fancy adaptations for living underground."

Tory MP calls for action on asthma

By Nick Nuttall

A SENIOR Conservative MP who is asthmatic yesterday accused the Government of complacency over efforts to reduce traffic fumes in cities.

Sir Graham Bright, former parliamentary aide to the Prime Minister, said not enough was being done to protect people with breathing difficulties from the fumes of buses, taxis, diesel cars and lorries. Speaking during a short House of Commons debate, Sir Graham said it was "galling" that technological solutions were available to cut dramatically particle fumes and soot.

He said a device called a continuous regeneration trap had been developed and needed government encouragement so that diesel vehicles caused less deadly pollution. "I would like to see it fitted to every new heavy goods vehicle and every bus, with the intention of extending it to all diesel cars."

He said the system would cost about £3,500 per HGV or bus but added: "The balance of costs and benefits will make retro-fitting even more attractive in the future."

Child with half a brain forces rethink on speech

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

A BOY who learnt to speak only after half of his brain was removed may lead psychologists to rethink their ideas about the acquisition of language.

The boy, known as Alex, was born with a disorder called Sturge-Weber syndrome, which interfered with the blood supply to the left side of his brain. By the age of eight, he was able to utter only a few sounds and only one intelligible word, "mama".

Doctors decided to carry out radical surgery because he suffered from frequent epileptic fits. Christopher Adams, consultant neurosurgeon at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, removed the whole of the left half of his brain.

This procedure, though it appears drastic, is quite widely used in such cases, according to Dr Elizabeth Isaacs of the Institute of Child Health in London, who presented a paper on the case at a conference in Edinburgh. Children treated in this way can lead a nearly normal life, although their intelligence is low. Their IQ is about 70.

The operation was carried out when Alex was nine. The seizures ceased immediately but he was kept on anticonvulsant drugs for ten months as a precaution. He began to speak about a month after coming off the drugs.

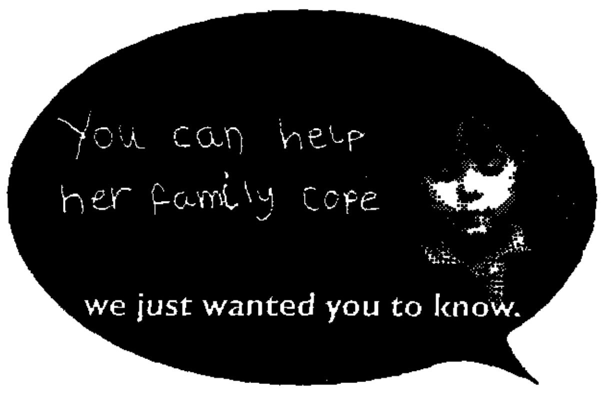
Dr Isaacs said that Alex, now 15 and at boarding school, had normal language skills and grammar and a wide vocabulary. According to Dr Mortimer Mishkin, a neurophysiologist from the US National Institute of Mental Health in Maryland, who is part of the team monitoring the boy's progress, he does not speak like an adult but his language ability "exceeds what you would expect from his IQ".

The case interests psychologists because it poses questions about language acquisition. The belief is that there is an age after which it is very difficult to learn to speak, one reason why it is hard to learn foreign languages as an adult.

"Some psychologists have said that the age limit is five or six," Dr Isaacs said, "but others say that it is up to the age of puberty. We have a child here who learnt to speak after the age of ten, so this case at least argues for the higher age."

Dr John Marshall, a neurologist at Oxford University, told *New Scientist*: "It is an exceedingly remarkable case." However, he wondered whether Alex might have had the power of speech all along, but could not express it because of damage to the left hemisphere.

Dr Isaacs said she doubts this because of the way Alex learnt, uttering first single words and then phrases and sentences. "He went through all the same stages as a normal child but much more quickly. Tests of his comprehension before the operation showed that it was equivalent to a child of three and a half. He didn't have all that language bottled up in there."



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Invasion of the ducks drives villagers to consider fowl play

By Paul Wilkinson

Swanland's two remaining swans are under threat

THE village of Swanland, given its name by the Vikings who introduced swans there, is being overrun — by ducks. An invasion of wild mallards is also threatening to drive away Charlie and Esmeralda, the latest in a long line of swans which have graced the village pond.

A series of mild winters and a lack of natural predators have caused the duck population to soar to more than 1,000. They are devouring the swans' food and making the villagers' lives a misery.

Villagers have already rounded up some of the interlopers and dumped them on the Humber in nearby Hull, hoping that hunters who shoot there regularly might solve the problem, but other ducks simply moved in to replace them.

Locals are now planning more direct action. Mike Frankish, a parish councillor, said: "Some people don't like the idea of shooting them, but we are overrun with the bloody things. Charlie and Esmeralda are being troubled by the ducks. The mallards seem to be eating everything in sight, leaving the swans with nothing."

John Downing, parish council chairman, said: "It's not too bad when they stay on the pond, but they are entering gardens. They have destroyed entire flower beds and keep villagers awake into the early hours with their quacking."

Steve Kehoe, landlord of the Swan and Cygnet pub, said a cull would be barbaric. The RSPCA agreed: "At the end of the day you are clearing the territory for more ducks to move in." Villagers are to seek advice from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

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Post-Fascist leader determined to lift Duce's shadow

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN FLORENCE

GIANFRANCO FINI, the leader of Italy's post-Fascists and the rising star of the election campaign, yesterday said the legacy of Fascism had been overcome. Europe had no need to fear that a directly elected Italian presidency of the kind he favours would turn out to be "a short cut to power for a strong man".

In an interview with *The Times*, Signor Fini said the tide was turning in his favour, even in traditionally "Red" areas such as Tuscany and Emilia Romagna. He had just addressed a rally in Bologna, his home town, where he drew an admiring crowd of 10,000 — twice those at a rally for Fausto Bertinotti, the hardline Communist leader, near by.

"There was a tremendous crowd," Signor Fini said. "No one saw a single Mussolini-type Fascist salute. I did not search everyone, but as far as I know no one was carrying a Fascist banner or a portrait of *Il Duce*."

Signor Fini, 44, is tall, immaculately dressed, shrewd and personable. He is a polished speaker, with an ironic twinkle behind his rimless glasses. Doubts linger over his break with the Fascist MSI (Movimento Sociale Italiano), which he dissolved just over a year ago to form the more moderate Alleanza Nazionale. The cover of *L'Espresso* this week carried a caricature of him with bloody lips and mad staring eyes under the headline — "Beware of the Right".

Nonetheless, the Alleanza Nazionale is set to gain between 5 and 10 per cent in a poll otherwise marked by apathy. One party likely to lose votes is Forza Italia, led by Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon who was Prime Minister for eight months in 1994 at the head of a centre-right coalition that included the MSI.

ITALIAN ELECTIONS

Yesterday Signor Berlusconi's trial on corruption charges resumed in Milan. Officially, Signor Fini shares his indignation over this "political-judicial bombardment". Signor Fini insisted it was "too soon to say that our party is the dominant force on the Centre Right," adding Signor Berlusconi would be Prime Minister again if the bloc won.

But few doubt Signor Fini would be the coalition's key figure. It would need "time and patience" before the world was convinced Mussolini's heritage had been buried, he said. In the last election, two years ago, Signor Fini described Mussolini as a "great statesman". He now says the Duce was "one of those who put his stamp on our century".

"There is a real Fascist party," Signor Fini said, referring to The Flame — a splinter group led by Pino Rauti which stayed faithful to Fascist ideology when Signor Fini broke up the MSI. "We have refused to make pacts with them, even in constituencies where a 1 per cent difference could let in the Left."

If there was a dead heat on Sunday between Centre Left and Centre Right, Signor Fini said, the only solution was to introduce further electoral reform and hold new elections in six months' time. He favours *presidenzialismo* — a directly elected President on the French model — and said fears that a "strong man" would misuse power as Mussolini had were misplaced. "Nobody says France is a Fascist country."

Parliament would remain paramount, as President Scalfaro had insisted. "When he warned about the dangers of authoritarianism recently, he assured me he was not referring to the Centre Right or to me personally."

Signor Fini said the Alleanza Nazionale was not aligned with any conservative force in Europe because it had its own characteristics. Italy needed flexibility from Europe over monetary union to allow the lira to join, he said.

Europe, for its part, needed Italy as the country which understood best "the real danger to peace comes not from the East but from the South" — a reference to tensions caused by immigration and Islamic fundamentalism.

Gianfranco Fini arrives in Bologna's Piazza Maggiore for a pre-election rally

Leading article, page 21

Rifkind laments deadly British errors in Bosnia

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

IN THE Government's frankest admission yet of fatal flaws in its previous Bosnia policy, Malcolm Rifkind last night warned Europe that it should never again attempt to go it alone in peacekeeping without the Americans.

"When the international community faces a crisis on the scale of Yugoslavia's collapse, direct US involvement is indispensable, especially if military action is required. A 'European solution to a European problem' was never a realistic option," the Foreign Secretary said at the Lord Mayor's Easter Banquet in Guildhall.

"As events since Dayton have shown, the transatlantic partnership is the key to success. That partnership, of Europe and America working together, delivers results, diplomatic and military. So my firm view is that any arrangements we devise for the future must reflect that point."

He also brushed aside speculation that British troops might remain in Bosnia-Herzegovina after US forces pulled out at the end of the year. Nato forces, North American and European, had entered Bosnia together. "We will leave together. Any alternative would be foolish and short-sighted."

Admitting that United Nations credibility had been damaged by Bosnia, he suggested a "few lessons" that the world should learn. "We must not commit ourselves to a peacekeeping mission unless there is a peace to keep. Unprofor [the UN Protection Force] faced an impossible task."

It discharged that task as honourably as it could, saving tens of thousands of lives. "But if in future we want to intervene in a war zone, we must dispatch a force which is suitably structured and equipped for a role which might lead to combat." The second lesson was to avoid foreign policy by declaration. "The international community announced 'safe areas' in Bosnia without ever committing the forces necessary to make them a reality. The result was a damaging blow to international credibility."

Mr Rifkind gave a gloomy prognosis for peace in Bosnia. He criticised Bosnian leaders for their failure to bring about reconciliation. Only the people of Bosnia, in particular their leaders, could decide between peace and war. They had taken the first crucial steps, silencing the guns after years of fighting. But they had made no progress in living and working together for a united future.

Turning to the European Union, Mr Rifkind warned Britain's 14 partners at the inter-governmental conference not to fall into the trap of being fascinated by questions of construction. He said the Union faced a danger of "twiddling endlessly with the minutiae of the EU's institutional machinery, but losing sight of the point of it". Mr Rifkind hoped that, as Europe matured, it would escape the confines of institutional architects.

Steffi Graf's father charged over taxes

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

THE father of tennis star Steffi Graf has been charged on suspicion of faking the tax returns of the world's top rated woman player and hiding her earnings from the German tax man.

The Stuttgart public prosecutor said Peter Graf — who has been under investigative arrest since August — would be brought to court along with accountant Joachim Eckhardt. The investigators have found no evidence against Miss Graf herself.

Herr Graf's lawyers said it was still not clear whether any tax evasion had actually taken place. "Tax law for international athletes is confusing and complicated," they said in a joint statement.

During a number of interrogations, Miss Graf has told the authorities that her father handles all her tax matters and that her signatures on incomplete tax returns were made by a printing machine used to sign letters to her fans.

The prosecutor believes that some DM42 million (£18.5 million) was hidden from the gaze of the German tax office. In some years no tax returns were submitted at all for Miss Graf. In other years, hefty sums were written off. During this period, Herr Graf was his daughter's financial adviser.

The scandal has already claimed some of the tennis player's high-paying sponsors. Now prosecutors will be able to dig deeper into the nature of her various contracts.

Miss Graf's game has not seriously suffered since the arrest of her father. She visits him in prison, but relations are said to be very strained.

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مكتبة الأهرام

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Ten years on, dead zone of Chernobyl stays under siege

☐ As John Major flies to Kiev to discuss nuclear safety with Leonid Kuchma, the Ukrainian President, **Lesia Rudakewich** travels to Chernobyl, where the atmosphere is still that of a desperate battleground

AN 18-mile radius round the Chernobyl disaster site in northern Ukraine is an eerie zone. Potholed tracks link deserted villages, where rusty equipment lies scattered about gutted blocks of flats. Wild boars run past abandoned homes and crows perch on fallen electrical cables.

Ten years after the world's worst nuclear accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, the area around the crippled reactor resembles a disused battlefield. But amid the debris, the campaign to contain the environmental pollution continues in a low-key fashion, since the state of emergency has long been over.

The exclusion zone is run much like a military camp. Getting inside requires clearance from one of three militia-manned control points and travel is restricted within the zone. Workers walk around in protective gear and talk of life as if they were under siege.

"Chernobyl is its own miniature world — we refer to life here as before or after the war," Svetlana Svirina, a physicist who came here in 1986, said. "At the time of the accident everyone worked round the clock just to cover the reactor. Like war, there was a real difference between those who risked their lives and those who did not."

Today life in this barren wasteland seems less clear-cut. Buses shuttle workers daily to the two Chernobyl nuclear reactors, Nos 1 and 3, still producing electricity, even as staff continue to monitor radiation levels around reactor No.4 that exploded on April 26, 1986. Reactor No.2 was shut down in 1991 after a fire. The contaminated areas and "clean spots" lie next to each other inside the zone and people cross from one to the other without concern.

Officially the zone is an uninhabited area, but about 650 self-settlers — evacuees who returned — reside in their old homes, tending their gardens and raising livestock.

"There are strict controls on everything," emphasised Ms Svirina. "Chernobyl is still considered a dry zone — no liquor or wine is allowed. Until last year, you couldn't even bring in a beer." In the early days if the militia had seized liquor at a checkpoint the worker's job was at stake, but now, she said, "the local militia themselves sell liquor at contraband prices".

Ironically, life in the zone has become bleaker now that the worst is over. In the months after the disaster, thousands of young people arrived to help with the emergency clean-up. A music hall staged concerts and a cinema screened popular films.

Today there are fewer amenities, fewer public places to go to, and fewer people. Ten years ago, people came because they had to, but now they mostly come for the pay.

"Once we had live entertainment. Today we can't even get newspapers," complained Sasha, a mechanic. "There was real work up to 1991-1992. Everyone knew what to do, and people in charge took responsibility. But now? You've got managers here drawing quadruple pay."

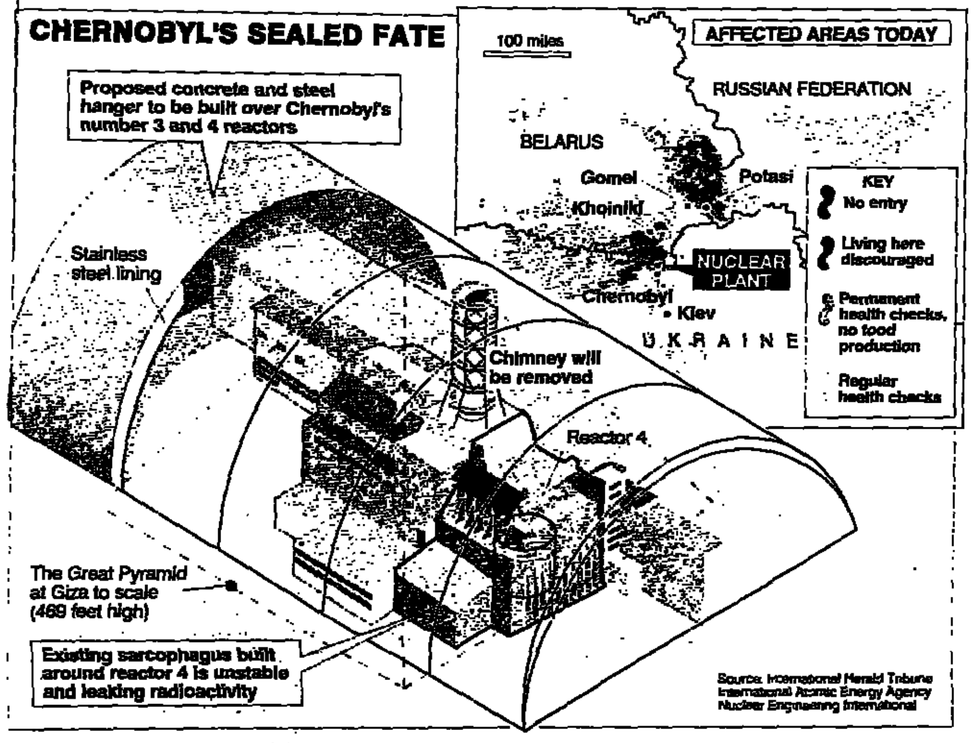
Andriy Sukharuchkin, deputy chief engineer at the radiation monitoring centre based in Pripyat, said: "People come to work here for many reasons. For some, it is the salary, for others, the friendships. For me, it is my profession."

For some it is also the memory of surviving 1986 and playing a role in the crisis management. "In the early days there were world-class experts working here," recalled Ms Svirina. "There was a spirit of camaraderie and purpose. People gave up their health and their lives. No one thought about the pay. They thought about the nation and the need to save it."

Just as strong is the attraction to this devastated earth. "It's a kind of insulation. I feel like a human here," said Mr Sukharuchkin. "I go back to the city with its thousands of automobiles, and I don't feel healthy there."

Ms Svirina agrees. "Every time I drive to the reactor, I think it beautifully empty. After being away from Chernobyl for a while, you miss it."

Workers in protective gear repair potholes along a road leading into the town of Chernobyl yesterday


CHERNOBYL'S SEALED FATE
Proposed concrete and steel hanger to be built over Chernobyl's number 3 and 4 reactors
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Reactor 4
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Regular health checks

Source: International Herald Tribune International Atomic Energy Agency Nuclear Engineering International

Ukraine plays for time and money

By Michael Dynes

THE spectre of a second explosion at the crippled Chernobyl complex in Ukraine, the site of the world's worst nuclear accident in April 1986, continues to haunt Western governments.

The Chernobyl complex houses four reactors. Number 4 was destroyed in the meltdown. Number 2 was shut down after a fire in the turbine hall in 1991, and the other two are still working.

Moscow was responsible for the clean-up operation during the first five years after the accident, making it difficult for Western powers to intervene. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, however, the Western powers were slow to take the initiative. Leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) leading industrialised countries have since repeatedly insisted that the stricken complex be decommissioned. Originally, Kiev promised to comply with this demand by the end of 1993.

In October 1993, Ukraine changed its mind. Faced with the economic chaos which followed the demise of the Soviet Union, Ukraine could not survive without nuclear power which provides 40 per cent of its energy needs, 7 per cent of which comes from Chernobyl.

Ukrainian officials now insisted that the crumbling sarcophagus, which encases the wrecked reactor building, could be repaired, and the crippled plant could be modified to last until the end of its design life in 2010. After a warning by the International Atomic Energy Agency in 1994 that the sarcophagus was deteriorating at an alarming rate, a consortium of French, German and British companies won a £2.5 million European Union contract to carry out a feasibility study into how to shore up the existing structure.

The ten-month study concluded that the reactor lid and its chimney were in danger of collapsing. It proposed a £1 billion scheme for stabilising the sarcophagus, and constructing a new concrete bunker to house the second and third reactors.

Months of delicate talks between the G7 and Ukraine began to show results by April last year, when President Kuchma promised to close Chernobyl by 2000, but insisted that the West would still have to provide for alternative sources of energy.

A memorandum of understanding was signed by the G7 and Ukraine last December, committing £2 billion in grants and loans to improve Chernobyl's short-term safety, and providing alternative sources of energy, in exchange for closing the plant down by the end of the decade.

As the tenth anniversary of the disaster approaches, Ukraine has yet to receive a penny in Western assistance. It will be years before Western governments will cease to worry about a repeat performance at Chernobyl.

G7 plans to stop uranium smuggling

By Jill Sherman
Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR will join Western leaders this weekend in backing an action plan to prevent nuclear weapons material being smuggled out of the former Soviet Union to terrorists or "rogue states".

The programme to be agreed at a summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations, hosted by President Yeltsin in Moscow, has been drawn up because of growing fears that weapons-grade nuclear material is now being offered for sale for military use.

Last night the Prime Minister flew on the first leg of his trip to Prague, where he attended a dinner held by Vaclav Klaus, the Czech Prime Minister.

Today he will meet Leonid Kuchma, the Ukrainian President, and Yevgeni Marchuk, the Ukrainian Prime Minister, in Kiev, where the leaders are expected to discuss nuclear safety and the action programme on smuggling.

British officials emphasised that there had been no recorded attempt to smuggle nuclear materials. However, according to a report released by Harvard University, there have been six incidents in which highly enriched uranium or plutonium, the essential components for a nuclear bomb, were stolen in Russia.

The eight heads of state will approve a programme to try to prevent any materials with a potential military application from falling into the wrong hands and to deter potential traffickers. They will try to ensure that material no longer required at the vast former Soviet nuclear complex is disposed of safely.

The summit will also agree measures to ensure that nuclear reactors in the former Soviet Union are made safer or destroyed. The leaders will confirm a £2 billion programme leading to the closure of the Chernobyl plant and will take steps to improve safety at other reactors.

☐ **Moscow:** Russia successfully carried out the experimental launch of a new type of intercontinental ballistic missile on Monday, Interfax reported. *(AFP)*

Pardon for prisoners who tackled fire

From Reuter
in Kiev

PRESIDENT Kuchma of Ukraine granted pardons yesterday to jailed offenders who helped to tackle the aftermath of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster or who suffered from its effects.

As part of commemorations to mark this month's tenth anniversary of the world's biggest nuclear accident, a presidential decree freed from prison anyone who had served at least a third of a sentence for minor offences. About 2.5 million people, including 900,000 children, were affected by the accident.

"The President is demonstrating his humanity towards first offenders who helped to deal with or suffered from the accident," said Petro Andrichenko, the head of the presidential pardon office. "It applies to more than 1,000 people."

Official statistics show that more than 300,000 Ukrainian citizens helped to put out the fire in the fourth reactor on April 26, 1986. The amnesty applies to adolescents, pregnant women and those with children. Beneficiaries must not have committed serious offences and must have behaved well in jail.

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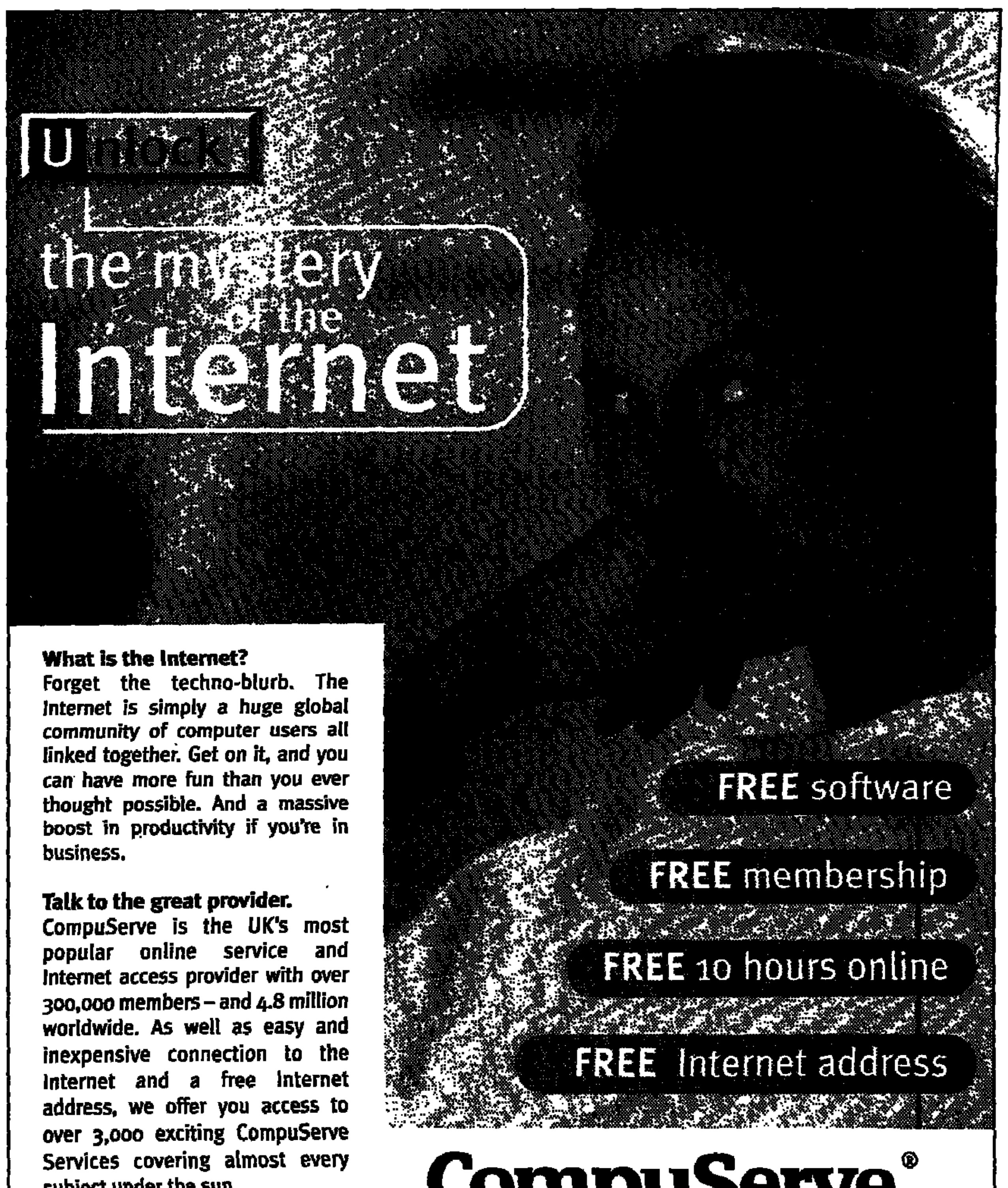

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The shipowner Stavros Niarchos with his third wife, Evgenia, at Maxim's

Gaudy era dies with Niarchos

Battle of two tycoons gave birth to jet-set Greek myth

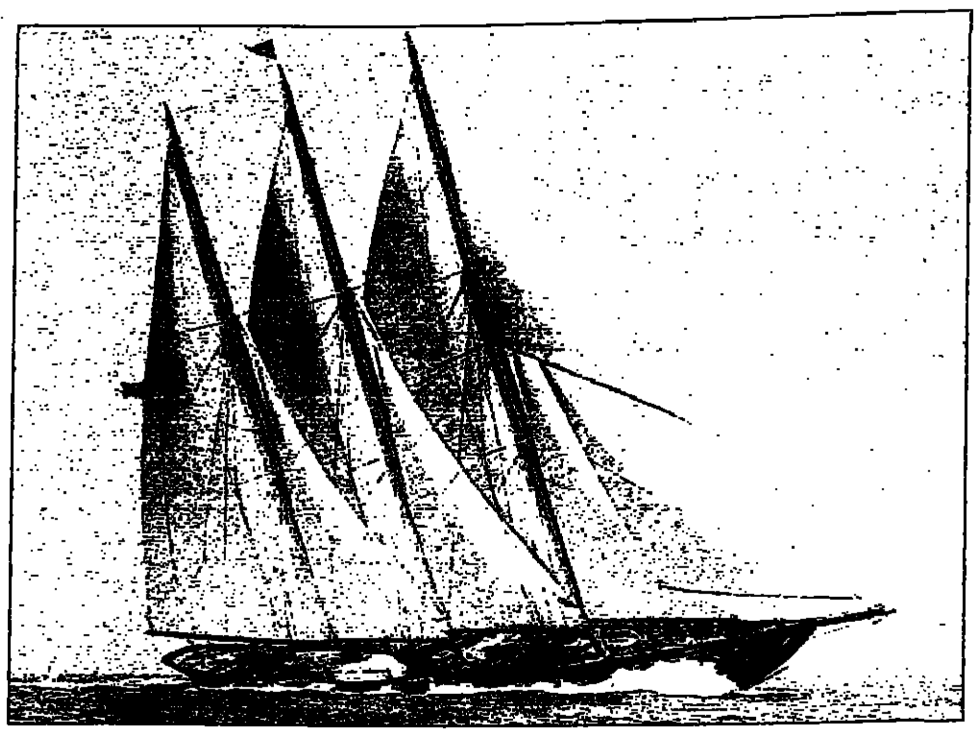
From Ben Macintyre in Paris

THE GREEK shipping magnate Stavros Niarchos, who died on Tuesday aged 86, was one of the last representatives of a gaudy but glamorous era when the size of a man's yacht and the lavishness of his parties directly reflected the breadth of his ego and the depth of his bank account.

Our age has become used to more reclusive and discreet billionaires, but Niarchos, with his brother-in-law and rival Aristotle Onassis, straddled the post-Second World War worlds of high society and business muscle, trailing money, former wives, mutual loathing and the whiff of scandal behind them.

They disbursed wealth conspicuously, on ever larger yachts, great paintings, paradise retreats, fresh business ventures, and invited the world to gape. The age of Niarchos-Onassis was glorious in its vulgarity.

Niarchos was often described as a private man, at least compared with the swashbuckling Onassis, yet he had a taste for the rich man's gestures and pleasures that made Robert Maxwell seem a shrinking violet: whether handing out gold sovereigns to Athens children or hunting leopards in Mozambique, he wore his wealth on the sleeve of his impeccable suits — ordered from a Milan tailor by the dozen.



The schooner *Creole*, replaced in Niarchos's affections by the yacht *Atlantis*

The assessments of contemporaries over the years reflect how completely Niarchos became a figure of legend, even a cliché: "cool as glacier", "frankly sybaritic", "the New Argonaut", and so on.

With his ten Renoirs and seven Van Goghs, his racehorses and properties spread across the globe he was, to use an appropriately old-fashioned-sounding term, a founder of the "international jet set". His entertaining was fabulous, whether on his yacht, in his Paris townhouse, or on the private Aegean island that he stocked with rare wild game and plants and exotic socialites, visiting royalty and world leaders. "Stavros never gives or goes to less than five parties a week," a friend noted in the 1950s.

A short, handsome man with an almost visible aura of energy, Niarchos often said of himself: "I am Greek and I feel Greek." But, like others in the rarefied arena of the massively rich, he was oddly stateless, restlessly travelling the world's most luxurious places. It was no accident that his shipping fleet tended to sail under flags of convenience.

The rivalry, which neither sought to conceal, between Niarchos and Onassis — over villas, islands, boats, oil refining contracts and, above all, shipping empires — merely added to their shared myth. "In business we cut each other's throats," Onassis once remarked, "but now and then we sit around a table and behave — for the sake of the ladies."

But the ladies were bound up in the sumptuous soap opera, for only Hollywood could compete in creating such an improbably tangled tale.

The tycoon had five marriages, the third and longest to Evgenia Livanos, the daughter of fellow shipping magnate Stavros Livanos. Onassis had married her sister, Tina, a year earlier. In 1965, after 18 years of marriage and four children, Evgenia and Niarchos divorced.

Niarchos's subsequent marriage to Charlotte Ford, daughter of the car baron Henry Ford II, went the same way, whereupon he returned to Evgenia. When she died in 1970 from an overdose of sleeping pills, a post-mortem examination indicated she had suffered physical abuse. Niarchos insisted the injuries had been caused during his attempts to revive her and charges against him were dropped. A year later, in perhaps his most remarkable act of one-upmanship, he married Tina Onassis, his rival's former wife and his own former sister-in-law.

Onassis died in 1975, and one wonders whether Niarchos came to miss the adversary whom he had cordially detested for so many years. According to one old joke, Onassis once went to South Africa for a heart transplant operation costing $1 million. A little later Niarchos did the same. When he returned he boasted to his competitor that his new heart had cost him half that amount.

"And so it should," Onassis replied. "They gave you mine."

Obituary, page 3

Opera-singer Maria Callas at a nightclub with Niarchos's life-long rival, Aristotle Onassis

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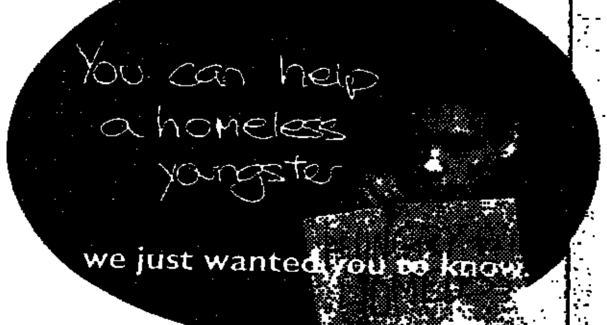

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Imran shows strain as he lashes out at reporter

From Christopher Thomas in Lahore

CANCER patients returned gingerly to Imran Khan's bomb-damaged charity hospital in Lahore yesterday as he and his wife, Jemima, contemplated the impact of the attack on their increasingly exposed lives in the sinister world of Pakistani politics.

The strain on the former Pakistani cricket captain showed: he punched a reporter at the hospital for asking what was regarded as an offensive question, and expressed disgust at a suggestion that he arranged Sunday's blast himself to gain political mileage.

The poor, sitting in wheelchairs in makeshift waiting areas, were assured that doctors and nurses had heeded Mr Khan's appeals to continue their humanitarian work and that treatment would remain free.

The charity must now raise funds for repairs. It costs 250 million rupees (£5 million) a year to run the hospital, which sees about 200 patients a day. Mr Khan uses his mass appeal to keep the money pouring in. All patients are means-tested; last year only 8 per cent paid.

Mrs Jemima, as she is commonly known here, must be wondering into what kind of murky political world her marriage last year has taken her. Mr Khan must regard himself as an assassination target as he prepares to enter politics in a bid for the premiership.

He flew to Karachi yesterday to study fundraising schemes to pay for repairs to the hospital estimated at £1 million. The damage could take a year to fix. He returned to his home in the Zaman Park district of Lahore late last night, aware that life can never be the same. Today he will again visit the hospital, which was opened in December 1994 and named after his late mother, to give moral support to nervous staff.

Explosives experts yesterday picked through the rubble of a corner of the building shattered in the blast, but found few clues. The nation shared a sense of disgust that such an institution should fall victim to political vengeance. It is assumed that the attack was a warning to Mr Khan to stay out of politics.

The signs are that the bomb had a timing device, enabling the attacker to be miles away when the explosion killed and maimed patients and staff in the outpatients' reception area. Burnt and twisted wheelchairs strewn about the building attested to the power of the blast. Pieces of furniture hurled through windows still lay on the lawns yesterday.

Mr Khan's foray into politics may not be announced officially for another few weeks. Initially he will launch what he calls a reformist movement, which will evolve into a party once it formulates policies on unemployment, drugs, violence and the conflict with India over Kashmir.

He has his sights set on the general election due in 1998, although he says there is no guarantee that he will be ready by then to make a bid for the post of Prime Minister. His manifesto may mark a shift away from an earlier fascination with Islamic fundamentalism, which worried educated Pakistani women. He once said Muslim women could do anything as long as their husbands gave them permission.

He has reinvented himself in the past year from a Westernised playboy to a traditional Pakistani in baggy clothes. For a time he associated with General Hamid Gul, a fundamentalist hardliner who was head of the Pakistan intelligence agency. He was also close to the youth wing of the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami party.

Protection for Mr Khan and his wife was stepped up last night, although security at the hospital remained light.

Dr Philip Nitschke with his computer program. The "final message" is on screen

Lethal drug: Nembutal, being used for euthanasia

Nurse will be first on death machine

From Roger Maynard in Sydney

A NURSE with terminal cancer hopes to be the first person to take advantage of the voluntary euthanasia laws which come into effect in Australia's Northern Territory on July 1, it was revealed yesterday.

Mrs Jan Culhane plans to use Dr Philip Nitschke's controversial computer software that will allow her to kill herself by lethal injection.

After making a series of commands at a bedside laptop computer — linked to a syringe driver — she will see this message on screen: "If you press 'Yes,' you will cause a lethal injection to be given within 30 seconds and will die. Do you wish to proceed?" If she does so, Mrs Culhane will lose conciousness and die painlessly a few seconds later.

Before she takes that final step, two doctors have to agree she is suffering from an illness that will result in death; and a psychiatrist has to establish that she is not suffering from treatable clinical depression.

Mrs Culhane, 51, a nurse for 30 years, has seen many of her patients suffer agonising death, a fate she is desperate to avoid. "I'm by no means under more pain that I've seen people survive, but it is pain that I am not willing to accept," she says.

Mrs Culhane developed breast cancer five years ago, and has had both breasts removed. The cancer has now spread to her lymph glands.

A mother of three, separated from her husband, she has already left her home in Albury, New South Wales, to live in Darwin. Critics of the legislation, who include the Australian Medical Association, fear Darwin could become the death capital of the world, as hundreds of terminally ill people make their way there for a date with Dr Nitschke's "death machine".

Doctor tells of backpackers' fatal wounds

By Roger Maynard

THE deaths of two British backpackers were detailed in a catalogue of injuries outlined in an Australian court yesterday. The jury listened in silence as Dr Peter Bradhurst, a forensic pathologist who carried out post-mortem examinations on Caroline Clarke and Joanne Walters, revealed the extent of their wounds.

He said Walters, from Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan, had suffered at least 14 stab wounds to the chest and neck. There was a gag around her mouth, and an untied ligature around her neck "suggested an attempt at strangulation or some form of restraint".

The body of Clarke, whose parents live near Hexham, Northumbria, was found with a red cloth, which was peppered with gunshot holes. She had been shot ten times in the head and stabbed in the chest.

Dr Bradhurst said the stab wounds would have had to have been made by a 30mm knife. Shown a Bowie knife in court, he said he would have expected the blade to have caused a different-sized entry wound. Ivan Milat, a roadworker who is alleged to have owned the knife, has pleaded not guilty to the murder of seven backpackers and the kidnapping of Paul Onions, a British tourist.

Earlier, Stephen Wright, an equity specialist from Beckenham, Kent, told how he met Clarke and Walters while he was on a working holiday during 1992. They had worked as grapepickers in a winery at Mildura, Victoria, and toured Tasmania together.

On their return to Sydney, he put them up in his room at a backpackers' hostel on April 17, 1992, just before they left in search of harvesting work in Western Australia. "They were not officially at the hostel on the night, to avoid paying for another night's accommodation," he said. They left early the following morning.

The prosecution asked: "Did you ever see them again?" He replied: "No."

Their remains were discovered five months later in the Belanglo State Forest in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales.

Clarke: repeatedly shot in the head

Walters: stabbed in the chest and neck

Canberra promises purge of diplomats

By Tom Walker

AUSTRALIA'S new Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, yesterday promised to clean up his country's embassies after recent revelations of paedophile rings run by its senior serving and former diplomats in Asia.

The "ugly envoy" scandal has ruined Mr Downer's inaugural tour, which takes him round the very "sex triangle" haunted by the errant diplomats. When he landed in Indonesia yesterday he was faced by allegations that William Brown, a former Second Secretary in the embassy in Jakarta, had been involved with four other Australians in a paedophile ring on the nearby island of Lombok.

Mr Brown and Robert Dunn, a former Sydney teacher, are being investigated by Indonesian and Australian federal police.

Last year Ken Aldred, a maverick Liberal MP, accused John Holloway, a former Ambassador to Manila and Cambodia, and three other senior diplomats, of being paedophiles. Mr Holloway has since returned to Australia and last week faced questions from police in Canberra.

Since then another top-ranking diplomat has been suspended on full pay, pending an investigation into child abuse allegations. Sources in Canberra said yesterday that he was believed to have worked in South-East Asia, although his whereabouts are unknown.

Mr Downer, who had been hoping to use his tour to bolster diplomatic and trade relations, said that "no stone would be left unturned" in the Government's purge of the diplomatic service. He described the alleged activities of Mr Brown as "abhorrent behaviour".

Mr Dunn, who appears to have been sheltered by Mr Brown for several months, has been described by an Australian royal commission as a paedophile. The commission, which is continuing its work, has been investigating child sex abuse allegations against diplomats and businessmen for the past year. James Wood, of the commission, described Mr Dunn's exploits as "evil" and "frightening".

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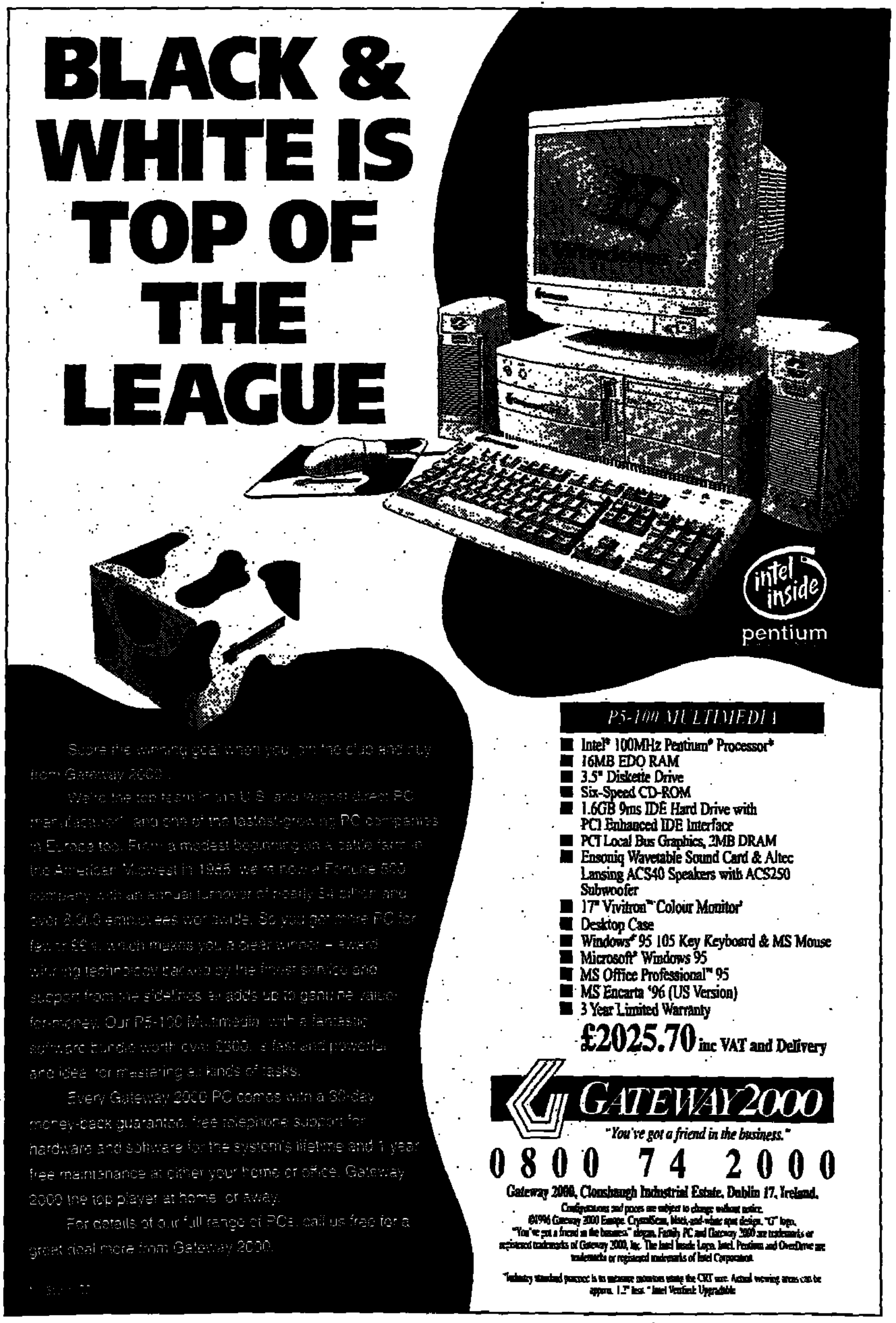

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US and Japan seal new security pact to defend Pacific

From Robert Whymant in Tokyo

JAPAN and the United States, in a historic declaration yesterday, agreed to strengthen their defence alliance and pursue a joint strategy to maintain peace and prosperity in Asia and the Pacific in the post-Cold War era.

At a watershed summit, President Clinton and Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, celebrated the US-Japan security treaty as the anchor of "one of the most successful bilateral relationships in history".

Playing down the trade frictions that plagued previous summits, Mr Clinton and Mr Hashimoto focused on the need to restructure the alliance between the world's two biggest economic powers by expanding the role of the Japanese armed forces. "Our security alliance is the key to maintaining a Pacific at peace, especially at this time of profound regional change," Mr Clinton said.

In a joint declaration on security, issued after the talks, the US pledged to maintain its current level of about 100,000 troops in East Asia, including 47,000 stationed in Japan. Mr Hashimoto committed Japan to continue paying most of the costs of maintaining the US military presence.

Last night the Japanese media were unanimous in their opinion that the summit had lived up to its billing as the "most significant summit since the end of the Cold War" — words that William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, had used to preview the meeting.

The three-day official visit, which began on Tuesday, has been full of pomp. President and Mrs Clinton twice met Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, when they were officially welcomed and later yesterday at a banquet at the Imperial Palace.

After the meeting with Mr Hashimoto, Mr Clinton said America was committed to reducing the number of US bases on the southern island of Okinawa, where the military presence is most intrusive. Washington decided to return several facilities in a bid to calm anti-base protests on Okinawa after the rape of a schoolgirl by three US servicemen last year.

Standing beside the President in the grounds of Tokyo's Akasaka Palace yesterday, Mr Hashimoto emphasised that, without the US military presence, Japan would have to rearm itself, which would perturb its neighbours.

The summit marked the first time that leaders of Japan and America had come together to address the security challenges posed by the end of the Cold War and the waning of the Soviet threat. Now, the deterrent value of their alliance lies in coping with the increasing power of China and uncertainties about Peking's future behaviour.

The closer defence ties were symbolised by Mr Clinton's visit to the *USS Independence*, the aircraft carrier deployed last month to deter any Chinese attack on Taiwan during Peking's hostile military exercises. Speaking on board the carrier, anchored at Yokosuka, southwest of Tokyo, Mr Clinton said its deployment "helped to calm a rising storm". A Japanese Navy cruiser tied up alongside, and its crew joined in welcoming the President.

Empress Michiko, right, introduces Hillary Clinton to members of the Imperial Family at a welcoming ceremony yesterday at the Akasaka Palace

Under the new security alliance, Japan will in future play an active role alongside US forces in the common cause of defending the Asia-Pacific region. The two leaders also discussed what they could do in case of a conflict in Asia, and agreed to review guidelines on defence co-operation.

Until now Japan had argued that a conflict in Korea or the Taiwan Strait was not its business. But many Japanese are now aware that the second biggest economic power can no longer shirk its responsibilities. Politicians have been preparing the country for a further watering-down of its peace constitution by saying that Tokyo would incur world censure if it denied assistance to US forces engaged in a Korean conflict.

Over the past year, teams from the Pentagon and the Japanese Self-Defence Forces have worked together on the new approach to defence co-operation enshrined in yesterday's declaration, enabling Mr Clinton and Mr Hashimoto to wax eloquent about common security objectives as they enter the 21st century.

Jimmy the Goodfella makes gentle exit

From Quentin Letts in New York

Burke: Irish Godfather who would help pensioners to cross the street

JIMMY THE GENT has died, but not in a burst of bullets. Mobster James Burke, to give him his real name, was one of New York's original "Goodfellas" and was played in the film by Robert de Niro. He has died of cancer in hospital, after being taken there from prison.

Burke, of Irish immigrant stock, rose to prominence in New York's predominantly Italian mob after the then record theft of $5.8 million from a Lufthansa jetliner at Kennedy airport in 1978. Police said that he was the head of the operation, although they never pinned the crime on the man whose other nickname was "the Irish Godfather".

Many of those involved in the airport heist came to unpleasant ends in what became a notorious falling-out among thieves. Eight of them disappeared — with concrete boots — and a pert beautician called Theresa Ferrara was chopped up into little pieces and scattered over New Jersey from a helicopter. Burke was called "Jimmy the Gent" partly in fearful irony, partly because he was one of those criminals who would help old age pensioners across the street and call police "Mr".

"I marvelled at his charm," said Ed McDonald, a former head of New York's Organised Crime Strike Force. "He was always polite."

Gambling was Burke's weakness, and the police finally tripped him up on a 1982 charge of fixing college basketball games. He was later convicted of murder. His victim, a drug dealer, was found in a meat freezer with his limbs "hog-tied".

At his own death, Jimmy the Gent still had ten years to do in jail. He died aged 64, a good tally for a mobster, and he went "with his boots off", as the mourners remarked to each other at the James Romanelli undertaker's parlour where he deserved special rates. The funeral is today, and a dark-suited, bulky-jacketed congregation is expected.

US smokers gasping for Cuban cigar

New York: Poor tobacco crops and increased customs vigilance have caused a shortage of black market Cuban cigars in America (Quentin Letts writes).

Despite a trade embargo imposed by President Kennedy in 1963, a smuggling network has ensured that American smokers continued to enjoy the powerful "hit" of a Cuban cigar.

The current shortage in which prices have risen by around 40 per cent, with 50 coronas fetching at least $850 (£566), started in earnest two weeks ago after the recent deterioration in relations between Washington and Havana.

Buchanan snipes at Dole with call for tough line on China

From Martin Fletcher in Washington

PAT BUCHANAN put Bob Dole, the Republican presidential nominee, on the spot yesterday by demanding an end to America's "abject appeasement" of China.

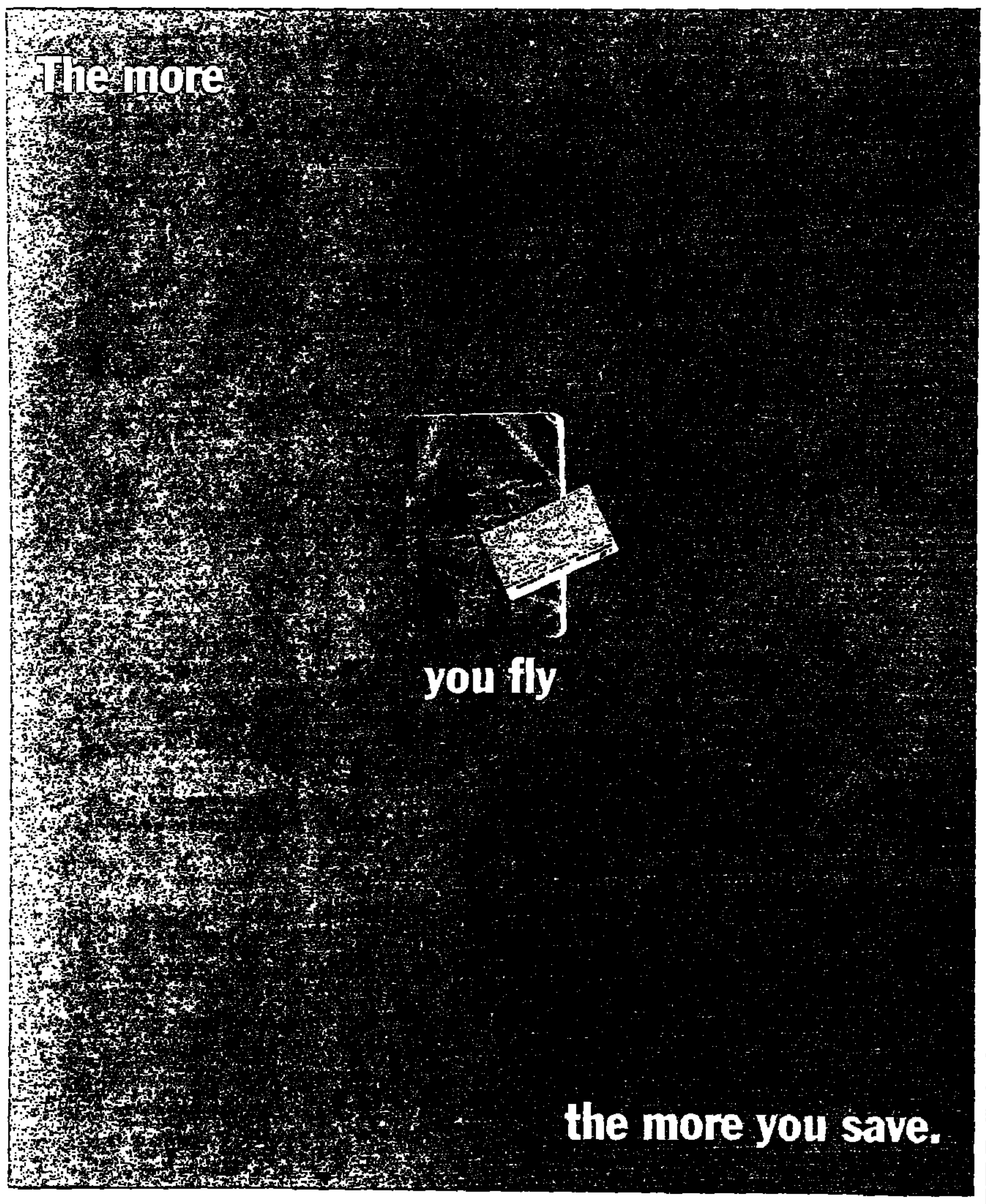
The conservative columnist was speaking for many on the Republican Right who believe it is time that the party treated China as a "noxious neighbourhood bully" and "the biggest rogue nation on earth". Mr Dole is so torn on the issue, however, that he has cancelled a speech he was to have made in California on Monday.

President Clinton must decide by June 4 whether to grant another annual extension of China's most favoured nation trading status, which means low tariffs on Chinese imports. He is expected to do so despite Peking's continuing human rights abuses, theft of American intellectual property rights, flouting of arms control agreements and recent aggression towards Taiwan.

Such a decision would give Mr Dole a great opportunity to attack the President for coddling "the butchers of Beijing" — the very accusation Mr Clinton made against President Bush during the 1992 presidential campaign.

However, Mr Dole has long supported preferential trading status for Peking, not least because his home state of Kansas does considerable business with China. The Republicans' traditional business interests want China's favoured status renewed and Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, declared his support for a further extension yesterday.

Mr Dole hopes to make Mr Clinton's wobbly foreign policy performance a key election issue this autumn, but the Republicans are deeply divided on a whole range of foreign policy issues ranging from the role of the United Nations to Nato expansion, and from intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina to foreign aid.



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General tells Peres not to end war in Lebanon too soon

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S top military officer in Lebanon yesterday issued an unprecedented challenge to Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, urging him not to order a swift end to Operation Grapes of Wrath.

The intervention by Brigadier-General Giora Inbar has prompted an extraordinary political dispute in Israel about the conduct of the war in Lebanon.

The general, a controversial war hero who is regarded by many Israelis as too popular and closely involved in the fighting to dismiss, told reporters that the Israel Defence Force would not let Mr Peres negotiate an end to the war at this stage.

The general's challenge to the authority of the man who doubles as Prime Minister and Defence Minister cast a shadow over American-led diplomatic efforts to end the fighting, now in its seventh day. It provoked fury among left-wing Israeli politicians who were concerned that their country was once again being dragged back into the Lebanese "quagmire".

MILITARY CHALLENGE

"We are advancing step by step. We will not permit a situation in which the Prime Minister suddenly stops us without having accomplished the tasks," the general said at the Tel Naches base in the occupied south Lebanon "security zone" held by Israel since 1985. He repeatedly broke off from his remarks to direct artillery reprisals against attacks to the north.

Fears immediately swept the Labour-led Government that the top brass had effectively usurped power from Mr Peres, a politician renowned for not having a military background.

Many commentators saw the influence of the main right-wing Likud opposition party behind the general's remarks: Likud has argued that Operation Grapes of Wrath has not yet gone far enough in dismantling the terrorist capabilities of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah.

General Inbar is the liaison officer with Israel's client militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), which is carrying out most of the fighting against Hezbollah targets on the ground.

"He will be reprimanded, but at this juncture of the military operation he will not be sacked," one Israeli official said. "That would pull the carpet from under the feet of the SLA."

Government members of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee demanded an explanation from Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak, the Chief of Staff. He told the committee that General Inbar's statement was "silly and unnecessary".

The Israeli Government is anxious about the effects of the conflict on domestic opinion before the general election on May 29 and the American-led diplomatic efforts to bring about a ceasefire. Dedi Tsuker, a left-wing member of the Knesset, said: "One should hope that it is not the army which is leading the political echelon in this operation as one may guess from [General] Inbar's statements."

Uri Dromi, the head of the Government's press office, said: "This was an aberration by this man and not a sign that the Government and the military are not working in complete harmony on this operation."

Some diplomatic observers believe General Inbar spoke out in an attempt to warn the Government against trying to bring about any quick halt to the fighting such as that ordered in 1993 to end Operation Accountability. They pointed out that there was an undercurrent of hawkish opposition to Labour policies inside the military.

Letters, page 21

Hezbollah rejects peace conditions

BY MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE pro-Iranian Hezbollah group yesterday rejected an American proposal for ending a week-long Israeli blitz into Lebanon and renewed its commitment to its guerrilla warfare against Israel's occupation of south Lebanon.

"We reject the American initiative," Hezbollah MP Ali Ammar said. "To us, the American proposal means suicide."

President Clinton, speaking in Tokyo, regretted that the peace initiative had not made progress but insisted: "We will do what we can to bring an end to the violence and try to re-establish a workable agreement." Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, continued to press the initiative, telephoning the foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia from Tokyo.

US PROPOSAL

Mr Ammar said: "We believe that the American side is not fit to launch any initiatives because it provides the political, moral and military cover for the Israeli aggression. Any American initiative is naturally in line with the Israeli conditions ... We assert our basic principles to continue our resistance so long as occupation of our land remains."

America has refused to criticise the Israeli offensive and repeatedly blamed Hezbollah rocket attacks for provoking Israel. A State Department spokesman said: "What we would like to see is an agreement by Hezbollah to stop the rocket attacks. We believe that if Hezbollah agrees to do that in good faith, there is reason to believe that Israel would also be willing to comply."

Rafik Hariri has a final inspection by a military aide before meeting John Major

Major offers aid for civilians fleeing onslaught

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR yesterday told Rafik Hariri, the Lebanese Prime Minister, that Britain was ready to rush emergency aid to Lebanon to help civilians fleeing the Israeli onslaught.

The Downing Street talks came as Britain took a markedly more critical line towards the Israeli attacks on Lebanon. The Prime Minister expressed his concern, and said everything must be done to break the cycle of violence. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said Britain was disturbed by the rising number of civilian casualties. The mounting violence was another threat to the peace process. New humanitarian problems were developing as people fled from the south of the country.

Mr Hariri told a press conference that his Government would not try to disarm Hezbollah while the Israelis occupied the south of Lebanon. That would be a betrayal, and would condone the occupation. Peace was not possible until Israel fulfilled United Nations resolution 425 calling for the removal of its troops.

He welcomed both the American and French peace proposals: each had points that Lebanon could accept as well as unacceptable proposals. He wanted to fuse the two plans, and supported their demand that Israel stop attacking Lebanese civilians.

LONDON

The Israeli attacks had not harmed Hezbollah, he noted: on the contrary, they had strengthened the radical group. No Hezbollah fighter had been killed, and its military machine was intact.

Mr Hariri admitted that Hezbollah posed problems for his Government. But he added: "If Israel asks us to make life easy for them while they are occupying parts of our country, we are not going to do that. No Lebanese government could do that."

Israel had made it quite clear that its intention was to hurt Lebanon's economic recovery. The attacks on power stations had plunged Beirut into darkness. But he defiantly rejected any intimidation. Beirut was not in panic, he said: the currency was stable; and France had promised emergency help to repair the power stations within two days.

Last night the British Red Cross launched an emergency appeal for those displaced by the fighting. It said that an estimated 400,000 people had fled, and the exodus was still not over.

Defiant few remain in frontline ghost city

*In the bombarded city of Tyre, **Michael Theodoulou** discovers a mood of grim fatalism as Israel returns to the attack*

"ALLAH be with you," said the nervous young Lebanese soldier manning an anti-aircraft position, as he waved us into Tyre, a virtual ghost city on the last active front line in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

There had seemed little to fear as we approached on the deserted coastal road. Farmers still picked crops in the citrus groves and banana plantations and street traders sold foam mattresses to the homeless. "Dream Well" said one sign.

However, within minutes of entering the city, once the centre of the ancient Phoenician civilisation, the boom of an Israeli warplane breaking the sound barrier shook the ground. Our alarm provided some scornful amusement for a group of Lebanese and Palestinian men lounging outside a rundown café with blown-out windows. They had experienced much worse in past days and years.

Tyre, usually home to more than 200,000 people, was occupied by Israeli forces for three years after their 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Since Sunday's Israeli ultimatum for everyone to leave, the city and several villages surrounding it, have suffered an average of 90 air raids a day. Like mildly curious sightseers, the group of men stirred themselves to watch an Israeli Apache helicopter gunship swooping low over a village south of the city.

There was a distant rumble and a plume of dense smoke which rose above the wooded hills of the Jebel Amal, the Hills of Hope.

"Lucky Strike" read a cigarette advertisement hoarding over the café above a poster of Ayatollah Khomeini, the late Iranian leader. The air raids and artillery barrages continued all day. A convoy of five white vehicles with blue-helmeted Ghanaian - United Nations peacekeepers screamed past, bearing humanitarian aid for some 6,000 civilians in southern Lebanon who have thrown themselves at the UN's mercy.

The ferocity of the blitz meant overstretched UN peacekeepers were unable to reach hundreds more people they feared marooned, hungry and short of medicine.

The mood of the few thousand who have remained in Tyre and braved the Israeli blitz that has filled its hospital with mostly civilian casualties was one of defiant fatalism. Some were grimly satisfied that Hezbollah has rejected an American ceasefire proposal and had continued to fire dozens of Katyusha rockets into northern Israel.

"The only language Israel understands is force," said Mahmoud Kod, a student who added that he had remained in Tyre to show his support for Hezbollah.

☐ **Metulla, northern Israel:** When Israel allowed Lebanese children to cross the country's northern border yesterday to receive medical treatment, some journalists present felt the operation was so stage-managed they could not report it (Ross Dunn writes).

The mission's objective was to show that Israelis care about the suffering of Lebanese civilians. Some journalists felt those coming across the border were being treated just as much by "spin doctors" as they were by medical practitioners. Never before has the international media been so deluged with information by the usually reserved Israeli military authorities.

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Why successful women fail to turn men on

Is it true that men have become such wimps that the only power left to them is to say no to sex? Giles Coren **reports**

DOES SHE RESPECT ME OR IS SHE JUST USING ME?

The classic question . . . but now it is being asked by men who are worried that the growing power of women at work is threatening their masculinity

AFTER the recent sperm-count scare, which revealed that men are becoming less able to procreate because of ubiquitous artificial oestrogens, global warming and tight trousers, a new report has driven the final nail into the coffin of what was once the male sex myth.

A study by the marriage guidance service Relate claims that the incidence of impotence has been rising steadily, as it were, over the past ten years (one in four men in psychosexual therapy complain of the problem), and that the cause of this is purely social. "There has been a significant increase in power for women," says a Relate therapist, commenting on the findings. "And this has led to disorders in male desires, with them feeling uninterested in sex."

Among other explanations, it has been suggested that men may feel that the only power left to them is the power to say "no" to sex. While this is clearly reactionary sexism, it does reopen some of the old wounds of the sexual revolution. As well as some of the questions.

Can a powerful woman make a man feel so uncomfortable that he is unable to perform sexually? Can the existence of female superiors in the office operate a general emasculation that he takes home with him in the evenings? And does this mean that an environment of social and professional equality compromises traditional sexual relations?

The trouble, as ever, is getting any sense out of men.

Taxi driver Mark Law, 34, sees it like this: "When you've got a bird in the back of the cab your first thought is always 'what are my chances'. But when it is a woman with a briefcase who wants to go to Bishopsgate, then it's strictly hands off, know what I mean? They don't do anything for me. But I'm sure I *could*, if I had to."

Vic Harper, 27, is a foreign exchange dealer in the City. "This is a tricky one," he says. "Looking around me I can't see a single woman in the dealing room. The only ones in this company are secretaries. But if I had a powerful boss I can't imagine I would feel emasculated. I would consider it a challenge to seduce her.

"However tough she seemed to be at work, I suspect she'd be a pussycat in the bedroom. I think it would make her much more attractive, more of a challenge . . . a touch of the Sharon Stones."

What if his own girlfriend were suddenly to become powerful, returning from work late, in a pinstripe suit, after a hard day's asset stripping? "I'd fancy her even more, and pounce on her the moment she got in. It's like having a 32-year-old when you are only 16 — the ultimate high — but as you get older, power replaces age as the thing that makes a woman exciting and, in a way, frightening. It's something extra to brag about to your mates, and if you encounter operational difficulties due to an inferiority complex, well, you don't tell them that, do you?"

The experience of Dr Thomas Stuttaford suggests that a number of men may be concealing their failures in this way. He cites a survey taken among farming families in which the women were found often to be frigid, but the men very potent. "When these families moved to the city," he says, "the women got jobs and lost their frigidity, only to find the men *had* become impotent. I saw a lot of this when I was working in a VD clinic. It is all because men are brought up, wrongly, to think of themselves as stags and the women as receptive hinds. But when that balance is challenged the men — particularly those with fragile self-esteem — start having trouble."

This problem does not afflict photographer Robin March, whose girlfriend is a successful journalist. "I can't say I've noticed any qualitative difference in my performance," he says. "A woman is only a woman, after all. They just have different buttons."

Meaning you have to press different emotional buttons, so to speak, to generate sexual responses in women of different statuses?

"No, I mean they have different buttons. A successful woman has lots of big Chanel buttons down the front of her power suit. A student has the fly-buttons on her jeans. And a really cheap date will have no buttons at all, just a zip."

It seems that the onset of second-generation Laddism has blown away the sexual reticence of the early 1990s, and men are forced to profess sexual interest in any animate object that crosses their path. Who knows, maybe Patsy Kensit's fame causes even Liam Gallagher trouble in bed? But would he admit to it?

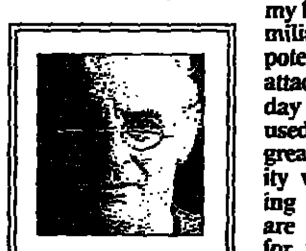
Unlikely. It would be like Macbeth admitting that he had not had a tumble since his wife took an interest in politics. "Unsex me here!" she cried, and repeatedly cursed her femininity. The logic of Macbeth equates power with masculinity, and to get her way Lady Macbeth had to become a man. Now, everyone knows that Macbeth's inactivity was actually a metaphor for his sexual impotence: *he simply could not perform for such a powerful woman.*

Rodney Logan, a 26-year-old pilot, has encountered similar problems. "One of my instructors, on an important flight test, was a very lovely young German," he says. "I knew that she fancied me, and felt that I was obliged to impress her with my flying to confirm her desire. It all got rather steamy. But there were a thousand other things I should have been concentrating on. In the event, I made a mess of the flight, and when she did make a pass at me, I wasn't in the mood at all. So no test pass, and no hanky-panky."

And what has he learnt? "I have taught myself to be utterly oblivious to sex, and act on a strictly no-gender basis. Spending long hours alone in a subservient position with women in their late-twenties, the thought invariably comes up. But I have to pretend I have no balls. It is the only way."

☐ Most mental patients are docile but can we predict when one will strike? ☐ Hay-fever sufferers should take early treatment

Signs of violence



MEDICAL BRIEFING

◆

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

AFTER my father had qualified as a doctor he found that his duties severely interfered with playing cricket. His compromise was to accept a junior hospital appointment at Cane Hill, the psychiatric hospital in Surrey. At Cane Hill his clinical duties weren't arduous, he had plenty of time off to play cricket and was even able to organise a hospital side for the patients and staff.

One fellow team member, a schizophrenic, was a particular friend and as a result my father spent much of his time on the ward, chatting to him about cricket, life and psychiatric problems. One day after the usual jolly morning chat, my father was about to leave the room, but before leaving turned round to give a wave to his team-mate. This gesture may have saved his life, for at that moment his fellow cricketer clubbed him with a long, thick sock which had been painstakingly filled with stones collected over many weeks from the cricket field. The sudden turn before leaving resulted in the blow falling on my father's shoulders rather than his head.

For the rest of his life my father used this story to illustrate his view that violence is not always predictable and that it requires more experience than he had at the time to notice any warning signs. Even today when diagnosis and care in hospitals has improved immeasurably, one in ten patients still assault staff, and NHS workers are three times more likely than their contemporaries in industry to be injured.

Although the mentally ill account for a very small proportion of the perpetrators of violent crime, stories of such crime when it involves psychiatric patients being cared for in the community, usually attract headlines. The great majority of schizophrenic patients are over-sensitive and retiring by nature but it is undeniable that they are more likely than the rest of the population to be involved in violent incidents.

The *British Medical Journal* has recently carried an article by Jeremy Coid, Professor of Forensic Psychiatry at Barts and the London Hospitals Medical College, on these risks in which he admits that the true potential for dangerous behaviour may have been seriously underestimated. So while for doctors, patients and their families it is comforting to know that in any one year, 90 per cent of schizophrenics whose disease is not complicated by other mental problems are unlikely to be involved in any violent episode, for the patients' neighbours a 10 per cent chance of a barny next door, in the street or at work may seem unacceptable.

Both Professor Coid's article and the commentary on it outline the factors which may help to predict which patients are more likely to be violent. This more detailed and careful assessment is essential. It might in the past have saved my father his humiliating and potentially lethal attack, but if today it could be used to give greater selectivity when choosing those who are to be cared for in the community, the general public would be saved from having their fears unnecessarily aroused by the occasional act of violence.

The clinical indications of risk are numerous but paranoid persecutory delusions are the most obvious risk factor either when they result in the patient feeling under threat, or when patients feel that their minds are controlled by outside forces.

Wheezes to defeat summer sneezes

WHEN the British Allergy Foundation decided to start its anti-hay fever campaign early this year, it had no way of knowing that spring would be so late.

Usually by the second week of April those who suffer from a streaming nose, red eyes and uncontrollable sneezing when they are confronted by pollen would have already been closing the windows and reaching for their dark glasses, while leaving it to others to wander idly beneath the cherry blossom.

The foundation's campaign is designed to encourage patients to commence taking their treatment before the hay-fever season has reached its peak, which normally corresponds to the time when the atmosphere is heaviest with grass pollens — in June and July.

Flowering trees and wild flowers also produce allergens which can cause trouble at any time from now until the autumn.

There is evidence that taking standard treatment before symptoms start, and not waiting until you are suffering from a blocked nose and watery eyes, is an important factor in ensuring that a normal outdoor life can be led throughout the summer.

The usual treatment, an anti-inflammatory nasal spray such as Beconase combined with the long-acting antihistamines, which do not cross the blood-brain barrier and so do not cause sleepiness, are effective in 80 per cent of cases.

By starting to use them now, patients may not only avoid the serious consequences of hay fever — poor work performance, bad exam results and possible road accidents — but may also be able to enjoy a better social life. Sniffing into a sodden handkerchief has never done much to increase sex appeal.

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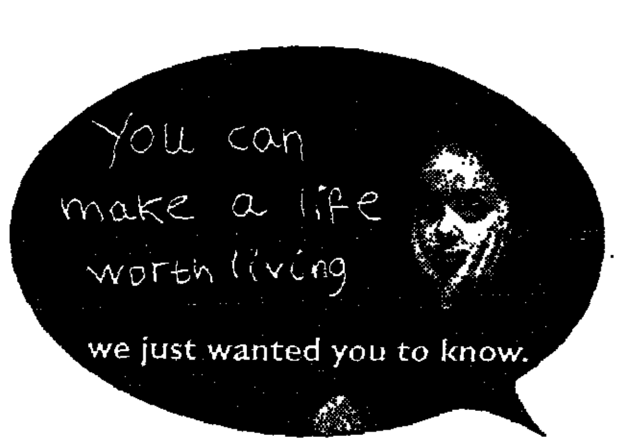
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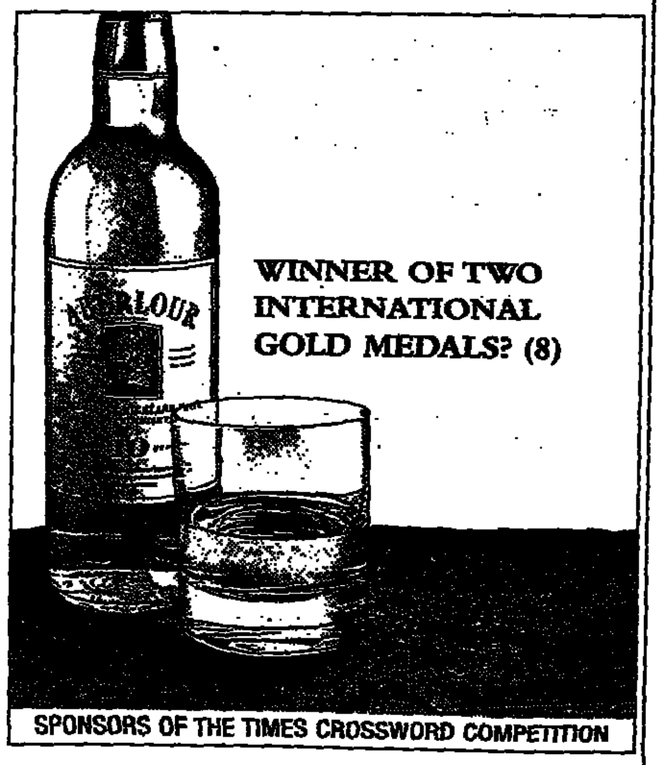

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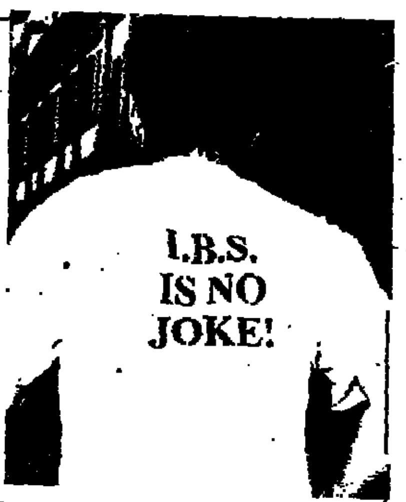
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The Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust has set up a charity to raise funds to research causes and cures of IBS.

Every quarter, the Research Team publishes the IBS Bulletin which reports on their work and gives advice on how to manage this condition. An annual subscription is £10 for four issues including P&P.

The current issue covers:
The economic costs of IBS
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هكذا من الأصل

The other Yeltsin

The real Yeltsin

Even the Muscovites are confused when the President's double steps out, says Richard Beeston

MOSCOOP

It is him, or isn't it? Aleksandr Skorokhod (alias Boris Yeltsin) poses for the camera in a Moscow sauna

BORIS YELTSIN strode purposefully into the Moscow bar as a group of dozy waiters and waitresses snapped to attention with a look of disbelief on their faces.

The man who seldom ventures out of the confines of the Kremlin, unless he is escorted by a cavalcade of limousines and bodyguards, had wandered in off the street and ordered a large brandy."I should get out and about a bit more like this," said the silver-haired Russian, nodding regally at the startled customers. "The people love it when they can see me up close."

The ruse would probably have worked, had Aleksandr Skorokhod, Yeltsin's lookalike, not been joined at that moment by a Lenin double, complete with goatee beard and worker's cap, who upstaged the performance with a noisy speech about world revolution.

"Typical of a communist," snarled Skorokhod amicably about his fellow impostor, with whom he often works in a double act. "They always want the last word."

Skorokhod entered a lookalike contest in 1990, along with hundreds of Lenins, Stalins, Reagans, Brezhnevs and Gorbachevs. Although he easily beat the other 28 contestants for the Yeltsin category, he was not fully convinced of his likeness until he tested it out on some unsuspecting Muscovites.

"I was walking down the Arbat (a famous Moscow street) with a guy from Kazakhstan who won the Ronald Reagan competition," he recalls. "I noticed that he had a button missing from his coat and that we were in front of a haberdashery shop. I went in, explained that the American President was outside and that we needed their help. The old ladies fell for it and got to work sewing on a new button."

A year later, when the Soviet Union collapsed and Yeltsin became President, Skorokhod, a retired engineer from southern Russia who survives on a £50-a-month pension, found himself very popular. In the old days, a double's only role was that of disinformation — appearing in public in place of a desperately sick leader, for example. But post cold war, lookalikes are in huge demand. Skorokhod has had walk-on roles in six foreign films, including a bit part in *Police Academy VII*.

He has reached such cult status in his home town of Taganrog that the local administration frequently invites him to attend public functions in an effort to lighten the atmosphere during VIP visits.

"When Solzhenitsyn came to visit our area I was introduced to him as the President," he said. "The poor man started a long speech, before he realised he had been tricked. To give him credit, he thought it was very funny. The same is not true of Vladimir Zhirinovsky (the ultra-nationalist leader), he was left speechless."

The more Skorokhod plays the role of the President, the more he finds he has in common with Yeltsin other than just the extraordinary similarity of his facial features.

"I was very surprised by how alike we are," he says. "We both worked as construction engineers, we were both in the Communist Party and we both like a drink and a joke."The two did meet once during the shooting of a film in Yeltsin's office, when the Russian leader came into the room. "As we stood facing each other, a priest who was part of the film walked in and did not know which of us to address until he recognised the missing fingers on Yeltsin's hand from a childhood accident."

After six years of impersonating the Kremlin leader, Skorokhod's brief acting career could be in jeapardy, however, since President Yeltsin is trailing in the polls and faces a tough re-election battle this June.

"I have noticed that people have changed their attitudes to Yeltsin. They used to be much more enthusiastic," he says with genuine regret. "Still, he can be sure of at least one loyal supporter — me."

Paul Heiney on why a charity's vital work has stopped

Hope is put on hold for ten families

THIS morning the Archbishop of Uganda, Livingstone Mpalanyl-Nkoyoyo, on a goodwill visit to Bristol, will speak of the continuing urgent need of his country for fresh milk to combat malnutrition.

At the same time, we in Britain are busy devising schemes in which 15,000 cows can be sent to the incinerator *every week* for no scientifically proved reason, but to "restore confidence".

Forget for one moment, if you can, the uncomfortable juxtaposition of these two events, and think instead of one cow in particular. She was called Tutti; a black and white Friesian heifer bought two years ago by readers of this newspaper and sent to Uganda as part of an inspired aid scheme run by Send a Cow, the charity based in Bath. On your behalf, I went with her.

The moment I handed her over to her new keeper, Betty Kiwanuka, was unforgettable, not simply because of the tears in Betty's eye or the singing of joyful hymns by the dozen children in her care; but because this was not a single gesture, rather the down-payment on a long-term investment that would not only supply milk for the family and village, but income for Betty with which she could buy education for her children and provide employment in her village.

It wasn't all bad news from the cow's point of view either: Send a Cow funds British-trained vets to oversee the training of the cows' new owners, teaches animal welfare and nutrition, and the growing of fodder crops. Given that the climate in Uganda is moist and warm and not overpowering despite its equatorial position, it is never steamier than a hot summer's day in Devon.

To prove the point, losses among cows exported to Uganda by Send a Cow are half what might be expected in a herd living in Britain. In other words, the gift of a cow brings food, health and wealth to those who need it most, and the cow is clearly quite happy to do the job. Then came BSE, and the heart-stopping thought that what we had always assumed was an act of charity was yet another infliction on the people of Uganda.

They have suffered evil dictatorship, the civil war which decimated their native herd and Aids. They need BSE like a hole in the brain. With some relief, I can tell you that since BSE first became apparent in Britain in the mid-Eighties, Send a Cow has sourced its heifers with even greater care than the British Government imposed on cows for our own food.

No offspring of BSE-infected mothers were sent, and no case of BSE has appeared in Uganda. They are well trained to spot it; Dr Chris Ocen, their veterinary chief in Uganda, made it his special study while training here. Nevertheless, Send a Cow has been flooded these past weeks with concerned phone calls. "It has been a very difficult time for us," says Georgia Clark. "People have been assuming that our work will come to an end and asking if they should now send their money to other charities." The answer is no.

This year, because of the worldwide ban on the export of British cattle, no cows will be sent from Britain. Think what this could mean for the ten families who are eagerly waiting for this year's shipment. They have worked hard building a shelter for their cow, they have cleared land on their small farms in order to grow elephant grass and other forage crops, and they have been trained in its care. It has already cost them dearly from their tiny incomes.

They have lived in hope for over a year having seen the transformation the coming of the cow has brought to the lives of others. I have seen it myself. One family I visited had put two children through university from the sale of surplus milk from just one cow.

Betty, to whom Tutti was given, can now afford to buy sugar and salt to offer her guests. It may seem little, but it matters a lot to her. "We are trying to source good cows inside Africa itself," says Georgia Clark. "We may be able to find some in Zimbabwe, but the decision has been taken that no cows will come from Britain this year."

I would not wish to be the one to break this news to the hopeful families in Uganda for whom the expected gift of a cow is the equivalent of a major lottery win. Send a Cow will work on, despite the ban.

It funds artificial insemination schemes to ensure the next generation of cows and trains field workers who buzz through the bush on motorcycles offering advice to cow owners.

But until the ban on the export of British cattle is lifted, the unique gift of the cow is on hold. Alas, as the Archbishop will remind a silent, concerned Bristol audience this morning, the need of the Ugandans is not.

MAGNUM

Paul Heiney and the cow that brought hope

- *Send a Cow, Unit 4, Priston Mill, Priston, Bath BA 2 9EQ.*
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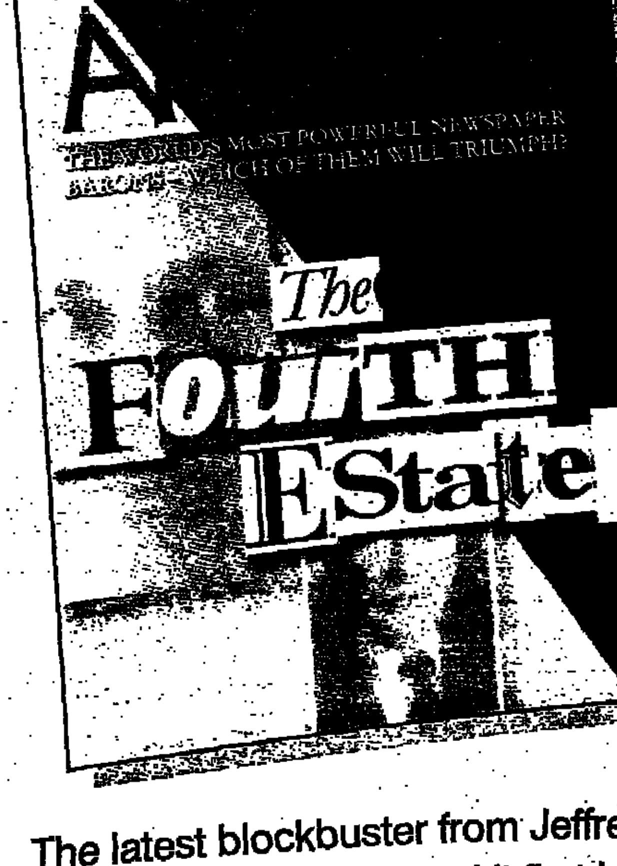
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The scoop that nearly ruined us

John Grigg throws some new light on the Parnell forgery

April 18, 1887, was a fateful day in the history of *The Times*. It was the first occasion when the paper published a story under a double-column headline, but the story itself is what really matters; its consequences for the paper were profound.

The sensational feature was a facsimile letter, ostensibly written by the Irish nationalist leader, Charles Stewart Parnell, which suggested that his public denunciation of the Phoenix Park murders had been hypocritical. A week before the date on the letter, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, Lord Frederick Cavendish, and his Under-Secretary, T.H. Burke, had been stabbed to death while walking in Phoenix Park, Dublin.

In the letter, the death of Cavendish was referred to as a regrettable "accident"; that of Burke as being "no more than his deserts". Appearing after three powerful articles in the paper on "Parnellism and Crime", this letter seemed to link Parnell to a recent and gruesome crime. The immediate impact of the articles, and above all of the letter, was highly beneficial to the Unionists — and *The Times*.

But this did not last long. Parnell had shown no inclination to respond to the general charge, being well aware that his movement had close connections with men of violence, and that much of the financial support for it in America had violent activity in view. But he dismissed the letter as "an unblushing fabrication" and called for a Commons select committee to inquire into it. The Conservative Government decided instead to set up a commission of three judges to investigate the wider question. In the course of its lengthy proceedings, the facsimile letter, and others that the paper had acquired through an intermediary, were exposed as forgeries. The forger, Richard Pigott, fled the country after giving evidence, and within days shot himself in a Madrid hotel room, having confessed to his guilt.

Nothing could atone for having printed the forgery

An important incidental effect of the commission was to boost the career of H.H. Asquith, who acted as junior counsel on the Parnellite side. The wide publicity that he gained in this role may have ensured his appointment straight to the senior Cabinet post of Home Secretary when Gladstone formed his last ministry in 1892.

It was very different for *The Times* and its founding dynasty, the Walters. Though the judges' eventual conclusions substantially vindicated the paper's general case, nothing could atone for the offence of the forged letters. Parnell's authority and prestige were restored, if only temporarily, while the paper, under the Walters' ownership suffered irreparable damage.

The commission cost *The Times* £200,000 (equivalent to about £10 million today), at a time when it was facing stiff competition from cheaper papers. Perhaps an even worse loss, as the official *Times* history says, was of its "legend of inerrancy". The "awe of holy writ, which from the age of Barnes had clung about its columns, now faded away".

Barnes's successor as Editor was G.E. Buckle, who in 1887 had been in the job for only three years and was still in his early thirties. He was a clergyman's son, handsome, bearded, and with an impeccable scholarly background, including an All Souls fellowship. After the Pigott débâcle he offered to resign, but the offer was refused. He soldiered on for another quarter-century.

Meanwhile, in 1908, the Walter regime came to an end, when the ailing paper was taken over by the supreme exponent of the new journalism, Lord Northcliffe. At first, Northcliffe's attitude to Buckle was friendly, even effusive, but they were basically incompatible. A man who made a point of having no telephone on his desk was not Northcliffe's kind of journalist, though when Roy Thomson gained control of the paper in 1966, there was no television set in the office. In 1912, Buckle was pushed out and began a second career as a biographer, and as editor of Queen Victoria's letters. He died in 1935.

A collection of Buckle's papers has recently been acquired for the archive of *The Times*, from Buckle's grandson, Patrick Pirie-Gordon, who readily saw the point of keeping the collection together.

The paper's enterprising archivist, Eamon Dyas, says the collection fills a major gap. Having gone through the papers myself, I agree with him. Buckle was in close touch with many of the leading figures of his time, political and literary. Their letters to him contain much that should interest historians.

When the "Parnellism and Crime" articles were appearing, Buckle was given police protection. A Home Office official wrote to him: "You will certainly do well to return in a Hansom — the safest mode of conveyance owing to the fact that the driver is in a position whence he can see anyone approaching the vehicle."

Patrick Pirie-Gordon remembers his grandfather well. He expected the young "to keep mentally alert". At tea, "he would produce some Latin tag or quotation to be construed by a visiting grandson". This streak of pedantry was not confined to his dealings with the young. Among the letters now in the archive is one from Arthur Balfour, Leader of the Commons at the time, in which he apologises — with more than a hint of irony — for a grammatical lapse noted by Buckle: "You are quite right: 'should' ought most undoubtedly to have been 'would'..."

Balfour and Buckle were on friendly terms and played golf together. But in December 1905, when Balfour resigned as Prime Minister, he made a mistake far graver than any grammatical slip in offering Buckle a baronetcy. Buckle's reply was a polite but magisterial refusal.

Adultery versus duty

Monarchy is a demanding institution — but so is matrimony

William Rees-Mogg

I first met Sarah Ferguson some years before she became a duchess. She was then working in William Drummond's art gallery in Covent Garden, where I was an occasional but enthusiastic customer. When one went in to see an exhibition, one was greeted by this rather bubbly young red-haired assistant who would hand out a catalogue and ask one to sign the visitors' book. Whatever may have happened to her since, she was not then the strangely exaggerated person one now reads about in the press. She was likeable, friendly and hard-working.

That memory of her as a young woman would alone be enough to stop me joining in the chorus of criticism. I hope she will now get her life together again; at the very least, the Duchess of York obviously needs a good accountant. Nor would I want to criticise the Duke of York; I have never met him, but he seems to have behaved as well as anyone could expect in a painful situation. He has also risked his life for his country, for which one should always be grateful.

Nevertheless, there are public issues. The failure of three marriages of the Queen's children has damaged the respect for the monarchy, both in Britain and in the Commonwealth. Yet these marriage failures are typical of the state of modern marriage in Britain, which has the highest divorce rate in Europe. No doubt it is more difficult to marry into the Royal Family than into the average family, but the royal outcome is not all that much worse than that of the average citizen. There must be many other families born in the second half of this century in which there have already been three divorces; some have no doubt suffered multiple divorces, which the Royal Family has so far been spared.

The damage to the Royal Family comes from our having higher expectations of them than we have for ourselves. That is part of their role. As citizens, we may recognise that we live in a modern age, which has much more hedonistic values than earlier generations. We nevertheless expect the Royal Family to preserve the more stoical values of the period of the British Empire and the world wars. These values were exemplified by the reigns of King George V and King George VI, and by the Queen herself. They were contradicted by the brief reign of King Edward VIII, who could never understand the contemporary public resentment at his putting personal happiness ahead of his duty to the country. His life is still an awful warning.

Monarchy depends on the ancient values system of honour and duty. It cannot function unless it commands loyalty, and loyalty can only be won by an absolute willingness to sacrifice personal inclination to public duty. Edward VIII's view that marriage to the woman he loved mattered more than the throne of England was quite incompatible with this overriding claim of duty. Yet obviously such an apparently archaic value system has been widely rejected in the contemporary world, and in its fullest sense is now hardly held by anyone. This conflict between the old and the new values threatens the survival of monarchy in every country where the institution has so far survived the many dangers of the 20th century.

Yet this conflict is at least as great a threat to marriage as it is to monarchy, and marriage is by far the more important of the two institutions. Monarchy depends on putting duty ahead of pleasure, as the Queen has done, and as her father and grandfather did before her. Marriage depends on that as well. Neither institution has a chance of success unless there is a commitment to endurance and self-sacrifice; the hedonistic calculus is equally destructive of both.

Without asking Lenin's question — "Who, whom?" — there has clearly been a lot of adultery in these failed royal marriages; indeed, two of the leading figures have publicly confessed to it on television. Many of the marriages of my contemporaries have failed; in most of those failures there has been adultery on one side or both, and it has played a large part in these breakdowns. Sometimes it has been the primary and sometimes the secondary cause, but it has almost always been present.

Nowadays adultery is quite fashionable, and it is thought priggish to speak ill of such a national institution. Indeed, it has almost become a human right, to be defended by all politically correct people. Yet there is no doubt that adultery causes alienation in marriage, and lowers its resistance to the natural shocks through which, at one time or another, every marriage has to pass. In marriage, people suffer sickness, irritability and depression; they have worries about money; they worry about their children, sometimes little worries about exams and sometimes big worries about drugs or health; they quarrel over trivial things; they grow old; they are separated by business; they have to care for elderly parents, who may even be demented; they are kept awake at nights by teething babies. All these things have to be overcome. Adultery weakens the bond which allows marriage to survive these natural difficulties; it is the matrimonial equivalent of an attack on the immune system, and opens the way to many other diseases.

My own observation has been that human beings fall into three groups, so far as adultery is concerned. There are those for whom it is irresistible — I even knew a man who took both his new wife and his old mistress on his honeymoon: he subsequently married the mistress, and could not be faithful to her either. There are those, at the other extreme, who are naturally strongly monogamous, for whom the idea of adultery is instinctively repellent. I remember another acquaintance who said: "I no more wish to sleep with another man's wife, than I wish to clean my teeth with his toothbrush." This attitude may be commoner among women than men, but it is not unusual in either sex. Even nowadays, women often have a deeper commitment to the stability of marriage than their husbands, because the maternal bond to children is so strong.

The larger number probably lies in the middle: for most people adultery may be an occasional temptation, but not normally an irresistible one. If they are exposed to particular circumstances, such as the separations and opportunities of wartime, they are rather likely to be unfaithful. If they live in a stable, monogamous culture, they are rather likely to remain faithful. The strength of the temptation will not override their desire to be faithful, if they have formed a conscientious belief that fidelity is an absolute condition of marriage. If there is no such belief, temptation has its chance. The culture in which they have been brought up is very important to the decision.

The late-20th-century view is that sexual pleasure has an almost pre-eminent value; it is often put higher than the more sober values of fidelity, duty, reliability, the welfare of children and so on. This has historically been a common pattern in rich and leisured societies, and relative to previous centuries, modern Britain is rich and leisured on a mass scale.

The birth control Pill, despite present doubts, has liberated many women from the restraints of potential pregnancies. There is also the post-Freudian ideology, reinforced by the commercial exploitation of sex, which has made adultery seem more attractive, or even necessary to psychological health. These are the facts, welcome or unwelcome, and they cannot be wished away. We live in an age more exposed than previous ones to the allurements of adultery, and therefore more people are adulterers; these people were bound to include members of the Royal Family.

The trouble is that adultery is a powerful social solvent. It tends to wash away the cement of marriage; those who depend on the stability of marriage, particularly children, suffer great damage as a result. In the case of the Royal Family, it does further harm. It undermines royal marriages as much as other marriages, but it is predicated upon the Duke of Windsor's principle that love is more important than duty. That may be an arguable proposition in philosophy, but it is fatal to the idea of monarchy. Adultery therefore tends to wash away the trust that the public gives to members of the Royal Family, as well as the trust they have for each other in their marriages.

The stern doctrine must be that the stability of the monarchy rests on a culture of tough-minded stoicism, of putting duty first. In marriage, duty includes faithfulness. The monarchy is by nature a demanding institution — but then so is matrimony. Both repay the demands they make with great and extraordinary benefits.

Gay pride before a fall

Magnus Linklater on the homosexual who stands apart

There has been a marked lack of sympathy in Washington for Andrew Sullivan, the British editor of *New Republic* who announced simultaneously that he was resigning from the magazine and that he was infected with the HIV virus. Instead of compassion for his condition and respect for the openness with which he revealed it, Sullivan's departure has been greeted with an uncharacteristic display of *Schadenfreude*. His literary editor said he felt "unburdened"; others claimed that Sullivan was using the news of his infection to cloak the fact that he had been fired — a charge he angrily denies.

From what is probably the world capital of political correctness, these comments were surprisingly ungenerous. This may be because Sullivan had a tyrannical style of editing which alienated his own staff; it may have been the smouldering resentment of American journalists, who reckon there are far too many Brits editing their magazines. But it may also have stemmed from Sullivan's brand of assertive homosexuality. He wrote regularly about this, sometimes movingly, sometimes aggressively, and he was no stranger to personal publicity.

Last year, in his book *Virtually Normal*, he took the argument a step further, in a way which seemed to fly in the face of his title. Homosexuals, he said, were not just another section of society. "The truth is," he wrote, "homosexuals are not entirely normal; to flatten their varied and complicated lives into a single moralistic model is to miss what is essential and exhilarating about their otherness." He admitted that his homosexuality had led him gradually to lose contact with his straight or married friends, and that he had become absorbed in the gay community.

That difference had been exacerbated by Aids. It was the homosexual's familiarity with death that ultimately set him apart. "Homosexuals in contemporary America tend to die young," he wrote. "They die surrounded by young death and by the arch symbols of cultural otherness." At the time he was writing this, he was aware that he himself was HIV-positive, though he did not mention it in the book. A routine test, taken three years ago, showed he had detected the infection in its early stage, and he has now embarked on a full course of available drugs, taking about 20 pills a day. Although he was adamant this week that Aids is "a survivable illness", and that he is "allergic to the past tense", he has seen six friends die from the syndrome in the past year alone. "Aids has intensified a difference that I think is inherent between homosexual and heterosexual adults," he says.

This makes uncomfortable reading. The conventional liberal view is that homosexuality is merely a variation on the sexual scale, that for a man to be gay is as acceptable as it is for him to be straight, and that in a civilised society he should encounter no more prejudice than his heterosexual counterpart. Sullivan challenges that view, and comes across as something of a sexual fundamentalist, which may not be all that surprising, considering his religious views. When Martin Peretz, proprietor of *New Republic*, introduced Sullivan as editor, he announced that he was "Catholic, working-class, British, Tory and gay" — in that order.

Catholicism approaches homosexuality from a different, but no less rigid standpoint. It is the present Pope's strongly held opinion that it is "a disorder". That was echoed only last week by Scotland's leading Roman Catholic, Cardinal Tom Winning, who said that although a man's sexual orientation might be created by God, so were other handicaps, "like a wooden leg".

This caused great offence among homosexuals, not just because of the crudeness of the analogy, but because it appeared to allow no tolerance, no variation in a man's sexual make-up. Some homosexuals, like many heterosexuals, are far less clear-cut about their feelings than Cardinal Winning appears to allow. They can and do change. They may, like Sullivan, want to assert their own sexuality and challenge social convention from the other side of the barricade. But they may, on the other hand, want to be accepted and absorbed without feeling the need to fight a running battle.

In some ways the Vatican view is easy to understand. Offensive or not, there is no doubting what it means. Sullivan, on the other hand, is the editor of a magazine which is the flagship of intellectual liberalism. He has campaigned for the homosexual cause, and has written passionately about its present state. And yet, by placing it outside the bounds of normal society, by emphasising the differences between it and what the rest of us consider normal, he is erecting barriers rather than demolishing them, encouraging prejudice against the gay community rather than reducing it.

It is a difficult and complex view to promote. Perhaps in the end both editor and proprietor felt that *New Republic* was the wrong place in which to do it.

THE TIMES DIARY

Aitken heart

IN A reconciliation worthy of a handshake on the White House lawn, Jonathan Aitken and the Thatchers are back on terms. At the launch of Carol Thatcher's biography of her father, Sir Denis, on Tuesday, Aitken and the Thatcher ensemble were like peas in a pod.

Almost two decades ago, Aitken, MP for Thanet South, and Miss Thatcher were the glamour couple of Conservative circles. Then the relationship ended. Miss Thatcher was said to be devastated, and her mother is said to have laid the blame squarely at Aitken's door. His notable absence from her Governments was often put down to this ill-starred affair.

It was not until Aitken's 18th year in Parliament that John Major finally found a ministerial post for him at the Ministry of Defence. As recently as last autumn, when a party was held at No 10 for Baroness Thatcher's 70th birthday, Aitken was noticeably invited only to pre-dinner drinks.

Now the freeze is over. At the book launch, held in the East India Club in St James's, Aitken was busy chatting away to Miss Thatcher and her youthful ski-instructor boyfriend. It even emerged that he had helped by reading proofs of the book.

What is more, Aitken has been entertaining the Thatchers at his home. "I had Margaret and Denis down for lunch just the other day," he said. "Denis liked it because I'm right on the edge of the Royal St George's course at Sandwich. He always likes a round."

But Sir Denis has been forced by arthritis to give up the game he loves. He explained: "I restricted myself to playing the 19th hole."

Jonathan and Carol, back in harmony

Sheen the light

AS CONVERSIONS to Christianity go, Charlie Sheen's ranks with the Damascene. The American actor and a one-time favourite client of the Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss, recently abandoned his wife of six months, the model Donna Peele. Now, this wildest of the young Hollywood set claims to have found God and been "saved". Describing his new-found faith to an American magazine, Sheen says: "It's so far beyond me ... it's so much more powerful than anything I can control that I have to surrender."

Top tips

THE publication of President Clinton's latest bedtime reading list casts some light on his burgeoning foreign policy interest. His Irish republican sympathies may have been bolstered by Thomas Cahill's book *How the Irish Saved Civilization*.

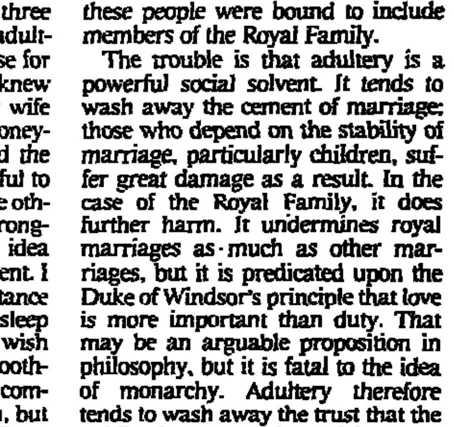
The President's chats with the new Israeli Prime Minister were probably helped by a skim through Shimon Peres's regional analysis, *The New Middle East*. Last year's American flurry in the former Yugoslavia was doubtless helped along by a perusal of the only British writer to make it onto the presidential reading list, Noel Malcolm with his *Bosnia: A Short History*.

● *Mary Whitehouse, turn away. Showing at the National Film Theatre, virtually uncut for the first time, is* Salò or the 120 Days of Sodom, *the last and most famously disgusting film of the debauched Italian director Pier Paolo Pasolini. A quite foully sadistic vision of Mussolini's republic, the film has been described even by its fans as very difficult to sit through. "The NFT audience is film-literate and will see it in its context," says the theatre. "You'd be bored if you were only looking for titillation."*

Hot heads

AS John Major flies off to Prague, Moscow and Kiev, we can only hope he has learnt from the fashion errors of previous trips. As my picture shows, the Prime Minister and his then Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, simply don't look happy in Russian headgear. Peasant extras from *Battleship Potemkin* perhaps — but statesmen, no.

At least on this trip the PM can rely on style tips from Roy Reeve, our Ambassador to Ukraine. Until his latest posting, the bearded Reeve preferred a Harley-Davidson to his official car. His search for a Ukrainian bike suitable for the icy roads, however, has so far proved fruitless.



A fur cry from style

● *The Friends of Kenwood House and English Heritage are not altogether happy with one another. The problem? A carpet. English Heritage says that it cannot afford to pay a full-time curator at Kenwood House because it is facing a cut in its grant, yet it has spent £10,000 on an unspectacular modern carpet from John Lewis for just one room, measuring roughly 18ft by 12ft. "That's half a year's salary for a curator," says one furious Friend. "It shows their ineptitude."*

P·H·S

TENSE TIMES

Two parties wait for each other's mistakes

The Conservative Party chairman loses his temper in public: the Labour Party leadership is on the edge of its sofa every time that Clare Short opens her mouth; would-be Tory defectors tease ministers and journalists alike; an MP's medical record is suddenly more important than any record he or she has ever had in politics.

Normally no one would make too much of Brian Mawhinney's *Today* programme outburst yesterday. But the Tory chairman's response to a relatively mild inquiry summs up the current atmosphere in politics as clearly as the response from Tony Blair's office when Ms Short mentioned her willingness to pay more tax. These are tense times — and likely to get tenser.

If Mr Mawhinney's nerves are highly strung, in Tory ranks he is not alone. With hindsight, the Staffordshire South East by-election result looks even worse than it did at the time. Labour leaders still cannot believe how well they did and, as Conservative MPs returned to Parliament, they found an Opposition more than usually buoyed up by the victory. This was a by-election whose result was supposed to presage the long-awaited upturn for the Tories. Instead it has plunged them into deeper gloom.

With the two main parties' local election campaigns being launched yesterday, it is hard for Dr Mawhinney to know what strategy to adopt. If economic recovery is not enough to warm voters' hearts, what is? The Prime Minister is due to deliver his own party political broadcast tonight. It is said that he did not much like the script he was given and will address instead the themes of inflation and public services.

Labour must be delighted: the Conservatives are hardly going to win the next election on standards of teaching and their handling of the NHS. The Tories seem almost to have given up on the local election battle. They know that they will lose hundreds of seats. They have no new vote-winning ideas that the Cabinet would unitedly accept. If they did, they would rationally save them for the general election manifesto.

European policy remains a curse for the Government. Its evasiveness on this issue makes it seem evasive on others too, despite the increasing clarity from Michael Howard on law and order and Peter Lilley on welfare reforms. John Major ought to gain personal credit for his power in imposing a referendum against the wishes of the two most senior members of his cabinet. But, by his own lights, he can go no further — and his are the lights that the government follows.

Some Euro-sceptics fantasise in private about holding an early election on the issue of repatriating powers from Europe, saying hang to the resignations and defections that would ensue, and ensuring that at least they have an issue on which to fight Labour. Better, they say, to go down gloriously than to limp along to certain and even more painful defeat next year: but moods like that are just another sign of the present times. Mr Major, clutching his tiny majority, still prefers to hold on for as long as possible and hope that economic growth, tax cuts, maturing Tessas, and building society payouts will save his seats. As we said at the beginning of the year, this remains the slim best hope for the Tories under Mr Major.

Labour strategists hope, by contrast, that time will not necessarily help the Tories. The longer they are considered a government-in-waiting, they claim, the easier it will be for voters to contemplate a switch of government. Moreover, if voters are simply bored of the Conservatives and want a change, this will be even more the case in a year's time.

Each party knows that it could lose the next election by making a terrible mistake. Tony Blair knows well that the Tories are hovering to pounce on any signs of indiscipline from his MPs. Meanwhile the Government aims simply to get through the summer by hoping that the Ulster Unionists stay on side and the Grim Reaper stays away. Such a policy is frustrating for natural pugilists on both sides. Prepare for more early morning outbursts.

ITALIAN RADICALS

The voters of Italy should put their political revolution first

As they prepare to vote this Sunday in Italy's third general election in four years, Silvio Berlusconi is courting voters with the promise that victory for the centre-right Freedom Alliance would produce five years of stable government. It is a pledge that even the most sceptical must long to believe.

Most European elections can in some way be considered as the collective verdict on a government's record and on the claims of its opponents that they would govern better. Most clear the political air. In Italy, by contrast, the best that voters can hope for is that the next government will finally have the will and the muscle to enact the constitutional reforms needed to give them a clear choice between real parties next time.

Political reform outweighs in importance all other issues in this campaign, and for the good reason that without it, the modernisation and cleansing of Italian public life cannot proceed. The current electoral system, a hybrid of first-past-the-post and proportional representation, is a recipe for shifting, and shifty, coalitions lacking any tradition of party discipline. Since Italy's last general election two years ago, the country has lived through an undemocratic political farce in which the voters' verdict counted for nothing. The centre-right coalition won, only to collapse a few months later — leaving the field to a non-elected "technocratic" administration kept alive by the Centre-Left, the losers in the 1994 election. The role of loyal opposition, which has been increasingly assumed by the judiciary, needs to be returned to the political arena. That will happen only with genuinely bipolar politics.

Clarity is even less on offer this Sunday than it was in 1994. The identities of the two main alliances are more blurred than they were then. In many respects, their platforms are hard to tell apart — which is hardly surprising since, incredibly, both of them appear to have drawn heavily on a paper drawn up by the national shopkeepers' federation. Neither coalition can even present voters with an undisputed leader whom they can expect to be the next prime minister.

If Signor Berlusconi, the formal candidate of the Centre-Right, takes office, his legal problems could bring an abrupt end to his tenure. Gianfranco Fini, the talented young leader of the post-Fascist National Alliance, looks more and more like the coming man of Italian politics but, because of his party's historical links, is ruled out as prime minister by everyone, including himself. The Centre-Left is in little better shape. Its official candidate is Romano Prodi, a genial Roman Catholic economist with no real party base. Its real leader, Massimo d'Alema, has also ruled himself out because, as a former communist, he too has associations to live down.

The race is thought to be so close that a few thousand votes for some 40 seats in northern Italy could decide the outcome. Without a clear result, Italy will revert to the politics of the revolving door. The Centre-Right is pledged to end proportional representation and introduce a semi-presidential system, with a directly elected prime minister to provide the strong leadership needed to control inter-party bickering. The Left protests that Italy has historical reasons to distrust strong leaders; but the real source of its caution is that these reforms would destroy the many tiny parties that make up its support. Such parties make for parliaments controlled by king-makers with no real popular mandate. Italy's second republic cannot take shape without constitutional radicalism: in this respect, the Fini-Berlusconi platform is clearly the better alternative.

ON WITH THE DANCE

We never, never, never shall be outstepped in the cha-cha-cha

Frequent protests have made the BBC see the revolving lights and commission a new series of *Come Dancing*. The protests have battered not just Broadcasting House. And they came not only from the millions of recreational and competitive dancers in Britain, but from virtual waltzers who take care never to step nearer to the ballroom floor than television armchairs. So the BBC has bent to give viewers what they ask for.

Its earlier decision to end the oldest series on television was prompted by broadcasters' correctness. Some of the outmoded courting rituals of the dancers appear irrelevant to stern modernists. The ambitious mother stitching sequins on her daughter's ballgown has become a stock figure of fun. For the Latin American programme, however, new viewers may like to note that frocks are now risqué with the times and have slits up the side to where the lipstick starts. But for quicksteps, frou-frou frocks and smiles painted an inch thick for the judges are still fashionable. So in its 47 years *Come Dancing* has become national institution as much as national joke. It is now as nostalgically British as cold fish and chips, warm beer and inaccurate weather forecasts.

The audience for the programme has slumped since its glory days when television was fresh. But it still attracts nearly three million viewers. There is more competition now, and the BBC screens it at a time when most competitive dancers have tucked their feet away for the night. But it was crass to consider switching off the oldest performing art just when dancing is becoming the one truly international recreation. For the old trick of getting your feet out of the way faster than your partner can tread on them is being considered as an Olympic event. Indeed it is as athletic as (and less wet than) synchronised swimming. The Chief of Air Staff has "strongly advised" RAF officer cadets to take it up. Ballroom combines elegance and romance with nimbleness, and allows performers to dress up as Fred Astaire or Ginger Rogers to strut their fantasies, swaying together like blossoms on the bough.

Ballroom is also perhaps the only sport at which Britain still beats the world. Our cricketers are a bad joke, our best footballers are foreigners, and our rugby players have become better at scoring fees than tries. But at ballroom Britain is still world champion. Three of the four international titles are held by British couples. This is a healthy activity without evident professional fouls. So when the formation dancers make their salutes in the military two-step they are saluting part of our national heritage. The BBC should be proud to broadcast such a British success.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Monarchy pattern for our respect

From the Dean of St Paul's

Sir, Your preview (Diary, April 13) of the MORI poll's reflection on the future of the monarchy (and see TV review, April 16) will I am sure have filled many of your readers with dismay.

The issue is not that members of the Royal Family are not without fault. In each generation some member will have erred and strayed and one could take the line right back to Edward the Confessor to realise the truth of this.

However, the institution of the monarchy, like that of any corporate body, if it is to work properly, demands respect. This is a commodity that is getting increasingly rare in today's Britain. In fact it seems to be a general malaise affecting the Western world.

Without respect within a family, parents for children and children for parents, there can be no true love. It is love that binds a family together and love does demand respect. Love goes hand in hand with respect. If you have no respect for the person, basically you have no love for them.

It affects not only families but all our institutions, particularly the Church, Parliament, the judiciary, leaders in civil and local government, the teaching professions, the medical profession, the police, the Armed Services. In fact all who carry responsibilities for the lives of other people require respect.

We deck our mayors and corporations in gowns; we put our senior officials of all professions in some kind of uniform. Anyone who has worn a professional uniform of one sort of another knows full well how the wearing of that uniform can be an aid in helping that person to become what the office intends them to be.

Many a tearaway youth has become an upstanding citizen because he has worn the Queen's uniform at some time or other. Many a civic head, from most unpromising beginnings has turned out to be an excellent mayor.

A subtle psychological change takes place in a person who holds high office. If the public's expectation of an official person's behaviour is high, then so often people become what they are meant to be. Low expectations always result in poor results. The higher the expectation, the greater the chance of perfection.

Her Majesty the Queen has, thank God, set us all the highest possible standards of service and behaviour and I am convinced that others will follow in her train. The British monarchy has a record of resilience which is second to none. It is the oldest continuing human constitutional organism in the world, apart from the papacy.

It does demand respect. Without that it can wither and become a mere shadow of what it was intended to be. It is in this regard that the media and the pollsters have a responsibility which is far greater than that of mere financial interest.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC EVANS
The Deanery,
9 Amen Court, EC4.
April 17.

Labour and London

From the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, Corporation of London

Sir, Your report (April 11) concerning Guildhall potentially being used by Labour's proposed Greater London Authority (GLA) arises out of the inconvenient reality of County Hall being unavailable for their purposes.

Old Labour would simply have abolished the Corporation of London. New Labour sees the value of having a dedicated local authority for Britain's most successful business district, particularly given the London-wide initiatives which have brought the corporation closer to neighbouring boroughs in recent years.

Our willingness to share Guildhall and assist with finding suitable nearby office accommodation will depend on a realistic assessment of how the relationship between the corporation and any GLA might sensibly operate.

It is also too early to judge whether any particular problems would arise were any GLA to be headed by an elected mayor, since there are many unanswered questions as to their powers and how in particular the role would relate to that of our Lord Mayor as head of the corporation.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CASSIDY,
Chairman,
Policy and Resources Committee,
Corporation of London,
PO Box 270, Guildhall, EC2.
April 12.

Israeli attack as a global concern

From Sir Anthony Parsons and others

Sir, While we have the utmost sympathy for the beleaguered inhabitants of Kiryat Shmona, we are strongly of the opinion that the Israeli response to Hezbollah attacks has been entirely disproportionate. To force 400,000 Lebanese civilians to flee in terror from their homes is both a brutal and an unacceptable form of collective punishment.

The violence must be stopped before Lebanon lapses into anarchy. The US has blocked United Nations intervention and is acting bilaterally with the parties. So is France. This latter initiative would be better conducted by the EU as a whole. This is no time for competitive diplomacy.

There is no question but that Israel, which has maintained a self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon since 1978, is there in contravention of international law. If that occupation were to end, there would no longer be any justification for the firing of rockets by Hezbollah into Israel.

Yours truly,
ANTHONY PARSONS
(UK Permanent Representative
to the UN, 1979-82),
GLENCAIRN BALFOUR-PAUL
(Ambassador to Jordan, 1972-75),
JAMES CRAIG
(Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, 1979-84),
IVOR LUCAS
(Ambassador to Syria, 1982-84),
MICHAEL WEIR
(Ambassador to Egypt, 1979-85),
As from: Highgrove,
Ashburton, South Devon.
April 17.

From Mr Lindsay Shanson

Sir, Michael Portillo's strong support for Israel's military action (report, April 16) is to be admired. For once a senior politician has, in his official capacity, been straightforward. Sadly, other so-called Western leaders hesitate, apparently nervously, fearful of the Arab lobby.

Their fears are misplaced. The West must face the real issues squarely. Hezbollah and Hamas are financed by Iran, not just to disrupt the peace process but to destabilise Western society in general.

The issues go far beyond Israel's narrow borders and must be dealt with as a global concern. This requires positive action. Fundamentalism and terrorism are feared as much by Islamic governments, such as Egypt, Malaysia and Indonesia, as by the West. Yet none has seemed willing to deal with the matter.

Yours faithfully,
T. L. SHANSON,
127 Alderman's Hill, Southgate, N13.
April 16.

From Professor Paul Wilkinson

Sir, It is shaming that Western governments have failed to condemn Israel's bombardment of civilian targets in Lebanon. Israel's anger at Hezbollah's indiscriminate rocket attacks across her northern border is entirely understandable, but it is the Syrian Government, not powerless and long-suffering Lebanon, which is responsible for facilitating and encouraging Hezbollah's activities.

How can Israel, which prides itself on being a democracy respecting the rule of law, justify a policy of terror against the Lebanese civilian population in response?

Deliberate attacks on such targets as an ambulance and a refugee camp are serious violations of the Geneva Convention. The French Government deserves the widest possible international support for its efforts to stop the fighting.

Terrorism is a scourge of the innocent, but a wider war which could fatally damage the frail Middle East peace process and cause a far greater slaughter of the innocent would be an infinitely larger evil.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL WILKINSON
(Head),
School of History and
International Relations,
University of St Andrews,
St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AL.
April 17.

From Dr R. T. Flowe

Sir, I was astonished by the statement in your leading article (April 15) on the Israeli-Lebanese conflict that "the underlying morality" of the exercise "cannot be open to question". When an ambulance is bombed in the suburbs and a power station destroyed (report, April 15) how can this be explained as a defensive act?

Perhaps, however, if I use your words and change the actors, we can arrive at a strategy for Northern Ireland. Britain "must defend itself against . . . religious terrorists, and [Mr Major] is duty bound to ensure the safety of people in his charge".

Britain's appropriate response to an IRA bomb in London would therefore seem to be a gunship attack on a Falls Road office of Sinn Fein and on the local power station, followed by the flouting of an earlier United Nations resolution to withdraw. Mr Major, like Mr Peres, would simply be upholding the "peace process".

Yours sincerely,
RONALD T. FLOWE,
41a Broughton Street,
Edinburgh 1.
April 15.

Army race relations

From the Chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality

Sir, Paul Stephenson (letter, April 10) is wrong to suppose that the Commission for Racial Equality's agreement with the Ministry of Defence about discrimination in the Army (report, March 29) is chiefly only about monitoring. The action plan which the MoD has signed up to as a result of the commission's investigation also covers:

A review of selection procedures at officer and basic levels to ensure they don't discriminate on racial grounds.
Instructions and training on equal opportunities for all senior officers, NCOs and others, especially those concerned with recruitment.
More and better efforts to attract ethnic minority applicants.
Advice to serving personnel on their right to complain of racial discrimination and harassment.
Instructions to commanding officers on the handling of complaints.

The action plan does cover monitoring, such as the ethnic origin of all ranks, recruitment and grievances. Such information helps to identify where things are going wrong and to demonstrate progress when they start to improve.

This agreement requires rigorous, timetabled action to achieve equal opportunity. We have reserved the right to issue a non-discrimination notice if the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces don't make the progress outlined in the agreement, but we hope this won't be necessary.

We have already submitted written and oral evidence to the Select Committee on the Armed Forces Bill. We are arguing, as Paul Stephenson urges, that servicemen and women should be able to take complaints of racial discrimination direct to industrial tribunals without the legal requirement first to use their internal system for redress, a requirement which the Government has rejected for other employees, including the police and civilians working with the Armed Forces.

A number of white and ethnic-minority soldiers and ex-soldiers have contacted the commission in recent weeks to support the action we are taking.

Yours faithfully,
HERMAN OUSELEY,
Chairman,
Commission for Racial Equality,
Elliot House,
10-12 Allington Street, SW1.
April 11.

Cadets under pressure

From Major-General D. M. Naylor (retd)

Sir, I read with sadness and disquiet your report (April 11) about the harassment which has obliged the Army Cadet Force (ACF) in Nottinghamshire to abandon its premises. As the Ministry of Defence director responsible for the ACF and its sister cadet service, the Combined Cadet Force, between 1989 and 1992, I know precisely how much young people who participate in both organisations benefit.

If we cannot safeguard them (and indeed sea and air cadets) from the worst ravages of a modern yob culture, we shall soon find that there will be no volunteers to lead or serve in these commendable organisations. As a result another bastion of decency and service will be lost.

Let us hope that all those involved in working with the youth of this country, in uniform or not, will ponder the potential fate of the Nottinghamshire ACF and determine to stop the rot before it is too late.

Yours sincerely,
MURRAY NAYLOR,
Minster Hill, Huttons Ambo, York.

Storm at Balaclava

From Colonel A. L. Mallinson, The Light Dragoons

Sir, Your correspondent Thomas de Waal ("Crimean site yields 'British graves'", report, April 10) imputes the loss of British shipping in the great storm of November 14, 1854, off the port of Balaclava, to "the disaster of the battle of October 25, 1854, famous for the Charge of the Light Brigade". This is unfair. Despite the Light Brigade's losses, the battle was no disaster: the Russian sally from the huge fortress of Sebastopol was stopped in its tracks and Balaclava port was saved from capture.

Your correspondent makes no mention, either, of the second and stronger sortie from Sebastopol on November 5, which was decisively repulsed by the Battle of Inkerman. Thereafter Balaclava was as safe as any port could be so near to an enemy garrison. The problem was that its anchorage was too small and its wharves inadequate, hence the queue of ships caught in the storm outside.

The stores and forage which sank with the transports were sorely missed that winter. Forty thousand greatcoats went down with the screw-steamer *Prince* and during the rest of November the Light Brigade's horses received on average about one fifth of their regulated rations.

Evidently things might have been worse, however. Writing to his wife two months later, Serjeant-Major Cruse of the Royals gave his opinion that: "I do not think the weather has been much more severe than it was in Manchester last January."

Yours faithfully,
ALLAN MALLINSON,
The Cavalry and Guards Club,
127 Piccadilly, W1.
April 10.

Business letters, page 29
Sports letters, page 44

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Working hard and matters of class

From Mr Peter Mahaffey

Sir, The extraordinary statements by the Prescotts, senior and junior, about their class status (report, April 13) confirm to me what I have always thought but no one dares to articulate publicly: that it is the snobbery of a certain section of the "working class" which is responsible for the class divisions of this country.

For a long time it has been rare to hear the middle classes boast about their role or status. Rather it is the likes of Mr Prescott Senior, who decries his son's honesty in admitting for once his quite evident middle-class situation, that is divisive.

I am a surgeon, no doubt most people's epitome of middle-classness. I work my backside off daily on behalf of my NHS patients, and I object strongly to suggestions from representatives of old Labour that a railwayman, a miner or a ship's steward is any more entitled by the sweat of his brow to be elevated to the status of worker than I am by mine. The quicker Mr Blair eradicates these ideas the better.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MAHAFFEY,
Lister Hospital, Coreys Mill Lane,
Stevenage, Hertfordshire.
April 13.

From Mr Iain A. T. Donald

Sir, My great-grandfather was a ship's cook; I work regularly in my profession 50 hours a week. Does this make me eligible to join the working classes?

Yours faithfully,
IAIN A. T. DONALD (solicitor),
Inglewood,
31 Strathkinness High Road,
St Andrews, Fife.
April 13.

From Mr Francis Wilford-Smith

Sir, Mr Prescott may well think he is now middle class. More to the point though, does the *middle class* think he is middle class?

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS WILFORD-SMITH,
Bentleys Farm, Bosbury,
Ledbury, Herefordshire.
April 15.

Mary less contrary?

From Mr John Thaxter

Sir, Benedict Nightingale (Arts, March 23) and the correspondents (April 13) who endorsed his report that Isabelle Huppert cannot be understood as Mary Stuart apparently saw early performances of the National Theatre production.

On April 9, two weeks into the run, this delightful French star was giving a spirited, treasurable account of the text with every word readily understood, but perhaps without the necessary projection. I was captivated and enthralled.

Clearly the voice coach has already affected much of the improvement promised by Richard Eyre, the Royal National Theatre's artistic director.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN THAXTER,
15a Stanley Road,
Teddington, Middlesex.
April 13.

First blood

From Mr Philip J. Wadsworth

Sir, Mr Martin Carter's letter (April 15) could well be evidence of an injured cuckoo — but I would think not a record. More likely a compacted disc?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP J. WADSWORTH,
Marine House,
St Andrew's Square,
Colyton, East Devon.
April 16.

Watch this space

From Mr D. J. Skinner

Sir, I offer my congratulations on your enormous increase in domestic circulation. However, in the light of Mr M. Gordon's letter (April 16) I had not realised just how ambitious your plans were until finding a computer simulation of the universe under "Home News" in your April 11 issue.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. SKINNER,
16 Whitefield Close,
Coventry,
West Midlands.
April 16.

Man of the moment

From Mr Gerard Noel

Sir, Your excellent obituary of Donald Adams (April 16) reminded me of a story he told me of his train breaking down while he was on his way to perform in a matinée of *The Mikado*.

Becoming irritated by the loud complaints of some children next door that they would never get to see *The Mikado*, he hurled open the door of their compartment and boomed in his great bass voice: "Don't worry children, I *am* the Mikado!"

Yours truly,
GERARD NOEL,
White's, St James's, SW1.
April 17.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 17: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning opened the Southampton Oceanography Centre, Empress Docks, Southampton, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire (Mrs Mary Fagan).

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, later visited 3 Field Workshop, Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Tidworth, Wiltshire.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Lieutenant-Colonel the Lord Charteris of Amisfield (Permanent Lord in Waiting) at the service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Mr Terence Cuneo which was held in St Martin-in-the-Fields this afternoon.

The Duke of Kent was represented by Mr Nicolas Adamson.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 17: The Prince Edward, Trustee and Chairman of the International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this morning travelled to Nara and visited the Todaiji Temple and the Kasuga Taisha Shrine before attending a Luncheon in support of the Award at Kikusuiro Restaurant.

His Royal Highness this afternoon travelled to Kyoto and attended a Tea Ceremony at Urasenke, performed by the Fifteenth Grand Master of the Chado, Dr Sen.

The Prince Edward this evening attended a Reception and Dinner in support of the Award at the Kyoto Hotel.

April 17: The Princess Royal, President, the Rural Housing Trust, this afternoon opened the Mary Cross Close, Highfield Road, Wiggington, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire (Mr Simon Bowes Lyon).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Dunn Nutrition Unit, later attended a collaboration between the Medical Research Council and Schools on Diet Exercise and Long Term Health at Hills Road Sixth Form College, Hills Road, Cambridge, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

The Princess Royal, President, British Olympic Association, this evening attended the Cambridge Olympic Appeal Dinner at Trinity College, Cambridge.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 17: The Prince of Wales today visited Glasgow and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow (Mr Patrick Lally, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

His Royal Highness, Visitor, this morning visited the Glasgow School of Art, Renfrew Street, and met students and staff.

The Prince of Wales afterwards visited the University of Strathclyde and attended the University Day Congregation in the Barony Hall.

His Royal Highness, Royal Visitor, Scottish Conservation Projects, this afternoon visited the Craigton Cemetery, Cardonald, and saw environmental work in progress.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 17: The Duke of Kent, Royal Fellow, this evening attended a Presidential Address and Celebration Dinner to mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Academy of Engineering, Guildhall, London EC2.

Royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the Animal Health Trust, will attend the second welfare symposium at the Royal Society at 9.45; as Patron of the International Health Exchange, will attend the annual meeting at the Royal College of Nursing at 4.35; and will attend the HAC's annual dinner at Armoury House at 7.30.

Princess Alexandra, as president, will visit the Imperial Cancer Research Fund cancer medicine research unit at St James's University Hospital, Leeds, at 2.20; and will attend a performance of *Carmen* at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre at 7.05.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of BLISS (Baby Life Support Systems) will visit the new offices at 17-21 Emerald Street, WC1, at 3.30; and as Patron of the National Asthma Campaign, will attend a musical evening at Fishmongers' Hall at 7.00.

The Duke of Kent, as Chairman of Trustees, the Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference (United Kingdom Fund), will attend the annual meeting at Norwich Union House, EC3 at 9.55.

Reception

The Cricketer International
Mr and Mrs Ben Brocklehurst and the Directors of *The Cricketer International* held a reception yesterday in the Long Room, at Lord's Cricket Ground, to mark the 75th anniversary year of the magazine. Among those present were:

Mr A T B Brocklehurst, Mr and Mrs R A Hutton, Mr E W Swanton, Sir Colin Cowdrey, Mr J Woodcock, Mr and Mrs M Melluish, Mr and Mrs P Allott, Mr V Marks and Mr M J C Nicholas (directors); Sir Oliver Popplewell (president, MCC) and Lady Popplewell, Viscount and Viscountess Marchwood, Field Marshal Lord Bramall, KG, the Hon Tim Lamb, Sir Tim Rice, Lady (Leonard) Hutton, Sir Roger Gibbs, Mr J Paul Getty, KBE, Mr Iain Sproat, MP, Mr and Mrs D Brocklehurst, Mr T B Brocklehurst, Mr and Mrs D Silk, Mr and Mrs R Knight, Mr J Smith, Lieutenant-Colonel J R Stephenson, Mr and Mrs T Mertens, Mr and Mrs H Constantine, Mr and Mrs C Bazalgette, Mr and Mrs P White, Mr and Mrs D Tomkins, Mr and Mrs P Perchard, Ms A Ripley, Mr A Tong, Mr S Patrick, Mr and Mrs G Martin, Mr and Mrs M Radcliffe, Mrs B Johnston, Mr I Johnston, Mr and Mrs P Shervington, Mr and Mrs G Evans, Mr A Bedser, Mr and Mrs J Snow, Mr R Taylor, Mr and Mrs V Fleming, Mr and Mrs T Bailey, Mr and Mrs H Blofeld, Mr and Mrs R Subba Row, Colonel and Mrs M Havergal, Mr and Mrs C Ingleby-Mackenzie and Mr John Warner and Mr Michael Warner, son and grandson of the founder.

Stationers and Newspaper Makers

Brigadier Denzil G. Sharp has been appointed Clerk of the Stationers' and Newspaper Makers' Company from September, 1, 1996, in succession to Captain Peter Hames, RN.

Banquet

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress gave the Easter banquet last night at the Mansion House in honour of Members of the Diplomatic Corps and their escorts. The speakers were the Lord Mayor, the Apostolic Nuncio and Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. The other guests included:

The Lord President of the Council and Mrs Newton, Mrs Malcolm Rifkind, the Lord Chamberlain and the Countess of Airlie, Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Sir Ralph Perring, Mrs Doreen Hill, Sir Edward and Lady Howard, Air Commodore the Hon Sir Peter and Lady Vanneck, the Right Rev John and Mrs Taylor, Sir John and Lady Coles, General Sir Edward and Lady Jones, the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps and the Hon Lady Weatherall, the Vice-Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps and Mrs Figgis, Mr and Mrs Jeremy Gotch, Mr Keith Mackrell and Miss June Mendoza, Mr and Mrs Crispin Blunt and Mr W G Ehrman.

Dinners

The Royal Academy of Engineering
The Duke of Kent, KG, GCMG, GCVO, Royal Fellow of The Royal Academy of Engineering, was present last night at Guildhall at a Presidential Address given by Sir William Barlow, FEng, President.

A dinner to mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Academy was held afterwards. A toast was proposed to The Academy by the Royal Fellow and Sir David Davies, CBE, FEng, FRS, President elect, replied. Among those present were:

Lord and Lady Balfour of Burleigh, Sir Robin and Lady Biggam, Lord and Lady Butterworth, Sir John Cadogan, Viscount Caldecote (Past President, 1981-86), Lady Davies, Sir Ron Dearing, Lord Gregson, the Earl of Halsbury, Sir Ernest and Lady Harrison, Dr and Mrs Tom Johnston, Sir Francis and Lady McWilliams, Sir Denis Rooke (Past President, 1986-91) and Lady Rooke, Dr Alan Rudge, Mr and Mrs David Sainsbury, the Earl and Countess of Selborne, Sir William and Lady Stewart, Mr Ian Taylor, MP, and Mrs Taylor and Mr and Mrs Lawrence Turner.

Glovers' Company
The Chief Rabbi and Mrs Sacks were the principal guests at a dinner of the Glovers' Company held yesterday at Clothmakers' Hall. Mr Alan Fishman, Master, presided.

Anchorites
Mr R.J. Sayer was the principal guest at a dinner of the Anchorites held last night at the Café Royal. Captain J. Hall presided.

Incorporated Glasgow Renfrewshire Society
The Lord-Lieutenant of Renfrewshire was the guest of the Directors of the Incorporated Glasgow Renfrewshire Society at a dinner held last night at The Western Club, Glasgow, after the annual meeting. Mrs Mary Davies, president, was in the chair. Lady Denholm, the patron, was present.

Captain Cook's ship is banned from her home port

Owners fear replica may run aground

By Paul Wilkinson

The good ship *Endeavour*, on which Captain Cook explored the world

THE OWNERS of a replica of the ship in which Captain Cook made his most famous voyage are refusing to allow her to moor at Whitby, where the *Endeavour* was built 230 years ago.

A £7 million replica of the ship was to put into the North Yorkshire port at the start of a journey retracing the captain's first voyage to the South Seas in 1768.

But after a series of unfortunate accidents with mudflats and harbour bottoms elsewhere on her cruise, the Australian trust which owns the replica has banned her from small tidal moorings like that at Whitby. Instead, when the 97ft long, three-masted sailing vessel arrives next year she will have to anchor offshore.

The news has angered Whitby folk and generated a flurry of faxes and phone calls between Scarborough Borough Council, which saw the visit as a great tourism coup, and the Endeavour Foundation in Fremantle, Western Australia.

"It's a nonsense," said Archie Thompson of the Captain Cook Memorial Museum, which occupies the quayside house where the captain's maritime career began as an apprentice with a local shipowner. "Cook deliberately took Whitby 'Cats' as they are called because they were wide, flat-bottomed craft, which could sit on a mudflat without falling over and float off at the next high tide. He knew he was sailing where no one else had been and wanted to be sure that if he grounded he could get off again.

"It is all quite ridiculous to suggest this replica could get stuck. When the tide is out there are areas of harbour bottom exposed, but there is also a dredged channel and deep-water moorings for the commercial ships which regularly collect and deliver cargoes here."

Peter Barton, the council official responsible for the borough's harbours, said that a series of options had been sent to Fremantle to encourage the *Endeavour* to dock. "We have offered them moorings where the commercial ships tie up and elsewhere. They have been guaranteed a place where the ship will float even at the lowest tide. We have also offered them a place on a bank of soft silt which would not cause them any underwater damage."

Eleanor Muirhead, the trust's UK representative said: "At the moment the plan is to keep the vessel offshore, but we are not in a position to confirm anything yet. We know that there is a problem at Whitby because there is more mud in Whitby than there was in Cook's day.

"The ship is slightly different below the waterline, mainly because it has an engine and a propeller and her skipper does not want that fouled."

Cook claimed Australia for Britain

Birthdays today

The Hon Michael Beloff, QC, president-designate, Trinity College, Oxford, 54; Dr Clive Booth, Vice-Chancellor, Oxford Brookes University, 53; Mr Alan Devereux, former chairman, Scottish Tourist Board, 63; the Marquess of Donegall, 50; Mr Nick Farr-Jones, rugby player, 34; Miss Sylvia Fisher, soprano, 86; Mr Brian Fuller, former Commandant, Fire Service College, Moreton-in-Marsh, 60.

Mr David Gee, former director, Friends of the Earth, 49; Sir Peter Hordern, MP, 67; Mr Peter Jeffrey, actor, 67; Mr Christopher Lawrence, managing director, London Philharmonic Orchestra, 46; Lord Mason of Barnsley, 72; Miss Hayley Mills, actress, 50; the Very Rev Dominic Milroy, OSB, former Headmaster, Ampleforth College, 64; Baroness Platt of Writtle, 73; the Right Rev Dr E.J.K. Roberts, former Bishop of Ely, 88; Mr Ian Taylor, MP, 51; Sir Teddy Taylor, MP, 59; Sir Edgar Unsworth, former Chief Justice of Gibraltar, 90; Mr V.E. Watts, Principal, Grey College, Durham University, 58.

Retirement

SSAFA
Prince Michael of Kent, President of the Council of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, presided at a dinner given by the Council last night at Apsley House by permission of the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, to mark the retirement of Major General C.R. Grey as Controller of SSAFA, who will be succeeded by Major General P.J. Sheppard.

Memorial services

Mr Terence Cuneo
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Charteris of Amisfield at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Terence Cuneo, portrait painter, held yesterday at St Martin-in-the-Fields.

The Duke of Kent was represented by Mr Nicolas Adamson and Prince Michael of Kent by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Christopher Thompson.

The Rev Bernhard G. Schünemann officiated, assisted by the Rev John Robson. Mr Gordon Cuneo, cousin, read the lesson and Mr Peter Knight read *The School Dance* by Terence Cuneo, when he was aged 15.

Brigadier Gerald Landy, Mr Michael Campbell Bowling, the Hon Sir William McAlpine and Mr David Shepherd gave addresses.

During the service a selection of music chosen by Mr Cuneo for Desert Island Discs was played by a brass quintet from the Royal Logistic Corps. Mr Edmund and Mrs Jackie Hockridge sang Rodgers and Hammerstein's *You'll Never Walk Alone*, accompanied by Mr Stephen Hession, piano.

The Right Rev Lord Runcie pronounced the blessing. Among others present were:

Ms Carole Cuneo (daughter), Mr and Mrs Stuart Moxham, Miss Melanie Viner-Cuneo and Mr Andrew Viner (grandchildren), Mrs Gordon Cuneo, Mrs Doris Cuneo-Maslach, Mrs Barbara Cuneo-Stone, Mr and Mrs Barry Tenison, Major and Mrs V T M R Tenison, Mr and Mrs Anthony Tenison-Collins, Mr Peter Chrippes, Mr Will Jeffries.

The Countess of Lindsay, Viscount Leverhulme, KG, Lord Berkeley, Lady Grenton, the Hon Lady McAlpine, Sir Timothy and Lady Ackroyd, Sir Christopher Lever, Sir Colin Cole, General Sir George Cooper, General Sir Kenneth Darling, Sir George Edwards, OM, FRS, General Sir Martin and Lady Farndale, General Sir Robert and Lady Ford, Sir John and Lady Mogg, Sir Michael and Lady Tims.

Mr Andrew Ackroyd, Mr and Mrs I Allan, Mr P Arthur, Mr P August, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs J Awdry, Mr and Mrs L Balkwill, Mrs R Barnes, Colonel A Barnett, Mr and Mrs J Barrett, Mr and Mrs D Bray, Mr and Mrs G Brown, Mr G Buckland, Mr and Mrs G Bull, Major-General C E G Carrington, Mr I Clark, Mr and Mrs P Cooper, Mr R Djanogly, Brigadier C C Dunphie, Mr P T Fenwick, Mr and Mrs R Gerard, Mr B Glanville, Mr and Mrs A Goff, Mr M Goff, Mr and Mrs M Goff, Mr M Goodman, Mr C Green, Mr M Halford, Colonel and Mrs T Hall, Mr and Mrs B Harrison, Mr and Mrs S Hine, Mr and Mrs B Holden, Mr A Hutchinson, Brigadier R N R P James, Miss R James, Mrs G D M Landy, Mr and Mrs T Toxham, Lieutenant-Colonel D M Oliver, Mr A Pegler, Brigadier and Mrs J S W Powell, Mr C Randall, Mr and Mrs D Robertson, Mrs R Robinson, Mr M Robson, Mr M Salmon, Mr P Sanderson, Mrs David Shepherd, Mr R Slater, Mrs D Stevens, Mr and Mrs J Viner, Mr T Walker, Mr and Mrs I Wallace, Mrs A Walton, Mr C Wheeler, Major-General M S White, Mr K Williams, Mr A Wilson, Mr and Mrs G Young and representatives of Arbrook House Nursing Home.

Sir John Badenoch

A Memorial Service for Sir John Badenoch, Fellow 1965-87, Emeritus Fellow 1987-96, will be held at 2.30pm on Saturday, April 27, 1996, in the Chapel, Merton College, Oxford. Tea will be served in Hall after the Service.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir Francis Baring, banker, Larkbear, Devon, 1740; Louis-Adolphe Thiers, 1st President of the Third Republic of France 1871-73, Marseilles, 1797; Leopold Stokowski, conductor, London, 1882.

DEATHS: John Foxe, martyrologist, London, 1587; H.A.L. Fisher, historian, London, 1940; Albert Einstein, physicist, Nobel laureate 1921, Princeton, New Jersey, 1955; Ben Hecht, novelist and film writer, New York, 1964.

Luncheons

HM Government
Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Lancaster House in honour of Dr Haris Silajdzic, Leader of Party for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mid-Atlantic Club/English-Speaking Union
The Mexican Ambassador was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Mid-Atlantic Club/English-Speaking Union held yesterday at Dartmouth House. Sir Peter Marshall was in the chair.

St Mary Abchurch

Sir Sigmund Sternberg gave a lunchtime talk on interfaith relations at St Mary Abchurch yesterday. Mrs Ruth Weyl also spoke.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.J. Attlee and Miss J. Ahern
The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of Mr and Mrs S.J. Attlee, of Ampfield, Hampshire, and Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs E.G. Ahern, of Virginia Water, Surrey.

Mr A.E. Beattie and Miss J.A. Mitchell
The engagement is announced between Andrew Edward, only son of Mr David K-M. and Dame Heather Beattie, of Lymm, Cheshire, and Julie, daughter of Mrs Elisabeth Cowl, of Mobberley, Cheshire, and Mr Ivor J. Mitchell, of Pinckney, USA.

Mr J.C.H. Berry and Miss A.J. Robbins
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mrs Robert Murdoch, of Wester Hill, Linton, Kent, and the late Mr John Berry, and Ashley Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Robbins, of Bethesda, Maryland, USA.

Mr B.A. Bullimore and Miss C.P. Dillingham
The engagement is announced between Brett, elder son of Mr and Mrs Timothy K. Bullimore, of Kew Gardens, Surrey, and Charlotte, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Dillingham, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Mr I.R. Cain and Miss H.R.J. Swash
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs Roy Cain, of Eastcombe, Gloucestershire, and Hannah, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Swash, of Far Oakridge, Gloucestershire.

Dr S.C. Dewan and Miss R.C. Pusinelli
The engagement is announced between Suresh, only son of the late Dr R.C. Dewan and of Mrs Dewan, of New Delhi, and Rosemary, daughter of the late Lieutenant Colonel Lennox Pusinelli and of Mrs Pusinelli, of Thornton Dale, North Yorkshire.

Mr G.B. Peacock and Miss A.L. Ward
The engagement is announced between Graeme, younger son of Dr and Mrs G.B. Peacock, of Highleigh, Chichester, and Alex, second daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Ward, of Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan.

Mr J.E. Scott and Mrs S.A.H. Perkins
The engagement is announced between Ewan Scott and Shirley Perkins, both of Rugby, Warwickshire.

Mr J. Millais and Miss L. Dunne
The engagement is announced between Joshua, second son of Mrs Suzy Millais, of Cadogan Mansions, London, and Mr Hugh Millais, of The Stables, Kirtlington Park, Oxfordshire, and Letitia, second daughter of Sir Thomas and Lady Dunne, of Gatley Park, Herefordshire.

Mr M.J.F. Ridgwell and Miss M.J.C. Wennergren
The engagement is announced between Matthew, elder son of Dr and Mrs Stanley Ridgwell, of Fulham, London, and Malin, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Göran Wennergren, of Ängelholm, Sweden.

Mr P. Ross and Miss A.L. Georgalakis
The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of Mr Henry Stephen Ross, of Hexham, Northumberland, and Mrs Marjorie Irving, of Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, and Alexia Louise, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Constantine D. Georgalakis, of Ditchling Common, West Sussex. The marriage will take place in October at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Cuckfield, West Sussex.

Mr G.D. Thornton and Miss S.N.D. Barker
The engagement is announced between Guy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Brian Thornton, of Aylburton, Gloucestershire, and Samantha, eldest daughter of Captain Fred Barker, of Lushill, Wiltshire, and Viscountess Wimborne, of Fontaine L'Abbé, Normandy.

Marriages

Mr E.W. Chaillet and Miss F. McLean
The marriage took place quietly on April 17, at Stratford-upon-Avon, of Ned Chaillet, son of Mr E. Chaillet and Mrs J. Chaillet, and Fiona McLean, daughter of Commander R. and Mrs M. McLean.

Mr B. Daubney and Ms J. Dawes
The marriage took place quietly, in London, recently of Brian Daubney to Jenny Dawes.

Mr N.C.S. Green and Mrs A. Eadie
The marriage took place in Chelsea, on April 17, between Nicholas Green, of Battersea, London, and Annie Eadie, née Bruce, of Weston Colley, Hampshire.

School news

Dover College
The Summer Term begins at Dover today. Simon Rastrick (Leamington) is Head of School and Speech Day will be Saturday, May 25, when the Prizes will be presented by the High Sheriff of Kent, Mr Robin Baker White. The Old Dovorian Society Banquet will take place in the College Refectory on Saturday, June 22, and the week of celebrations end with the 125 Anniversary Ball on The Close on Friday, June 28.

Holmwood House, Colchester
Summer Term begins today at Holmwood House, Colchester. Sports Day is on Friday, May 24; the Talbot Society Fete is on Sunday, June 16, and term will end with Speech Day on Saturday, July 13.

Headington School, Oxford
The Summer Term begins today. There will be a concert in the Holywell Music Room on May 8. Juliet Allen will give a Recital in the School Hall on May 9 in aid of the school's South African Netball Tour. There will be a Drama Show by the Theatre Studies students on May 10. There will be a concert in the School Hall on May 16. Headingtonians' Day is June 8. Foundation Day is June 28. The Venerable Alec Knight, Archdeacon of Basingstoke, will preach at the Foundation Day Service, in the afternoon the Sports Hall will be opened by Oluyinka Idowu, Headingtonian, member of the 1992 British Olympic Team as a long jumper, and in the evening there will be a show entitled *Midsummer Voyage*. Term ends on July 4. The Netball Tour of South Africa is from July 17 until August 4.

St John's School, Leatherhead
Summer Term began yesterday at St John's School, Leatherhead. Mark Glew is Captain of the School and Richard Vosser is Captain of Cricket. The Junior School play *Loot* will be performed on May 22, 23 and 24, and the ODS production of *Abigail's Party* will be on July 4 and 5. Choral Evensong is at 6.30pm on Tuesday, May 7, the Friends of St John's Recital is at 6.30pm on Thursday, June 6, and the Summer Concert will be performed on Sunday, June 30, at 8pm. Old Johnian Sunday is June 30 - the preacher will be the Rev Martin Francis and Prizegiving is on Saturday, July 6, when the Guest of Honour will be Lord Carlisle of Bucklow. Mr S.W. Chubb retires at the end of the term after 35 years as Head of Economics and Politics.

Woodhouse Grove School
The Governors are pleased to announce the appointment as Headmaster of Mr David Humphreys, BA. Mr Humphreys, who is Deputy Head of Caterham School, Surrey, will take up his appointment on September 1, 1996, when Mr David Welsh becomes Principal of the Dame Allan's Schools, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Lord-Lieutenancy of Argyll and Bute

The Duke of Argyll has been apointed Lord-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute in succession to the late Colonel Archibald Fletcher. Mr Robin Neill Lochnell Malcolm of Poltalloch has been appointed Vice Lord-Lieutenant.

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Lord God of Hosts, restore us, and make your face shine on us, that we may be saved. Psalm 80 : 19 (REB)

BIRTHS

BANKES - On April 14th, to Sophie (née Thornilley) and Charles, a son, William James Newsom.

BARNES - On April 15th, at the Lindo Wing, to Caragh and Jasper, a son, Harry.

BROWN - On April 11th, in Harare, to Jane and Andrew, a daughter, Eleanor Tisa Mayger.

BRUCE - On April 14th 1996, to Lisa (née Linder) and Neil, a son, William Stirling.

JACKSON - On April 13th, to Virginia (née Griffith) and Andrew, a daughter, Flora, a sister for Thomas, Emily and Hatty.

LEBUS - On 16th April, to Rachel (née Morton) and Matthew, a son, Samuel Alexander, a brother for Benjamin and Joseph.

LYON - On 16th April at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital, to Annie (née Ree-Pedersen) and Richard, a son, Alexander Richard.

MACHIN - On 13th April 1996, to Candida (née Smith) and Robert, a son, Miles.

ROYSTON - On 12th April at The Portland Hospital, to Miranda (née Sussman) and Jamie, a handsome son, Max, a grandson to Sandra and Leslie Royston, Adrianne and Leonard Sussman.

SHAW - On 14th April 1996, to Meirion (née Slot) and Tim, a son, Sam.

SMITH - On April 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Suzanne (née Saul-David) and Garry, a beautiful son, Oliver Jonathan.

ZARLAS - On April 11th 1996, at Queen Mary's Hospital, to Sara (née Mackie) and Dimitri, a daughter, Katerina Charlotte.

DEATHS

BATTS - George Frederick very peacefully in his sleep at Duchess of Kent House on April 13th. Beloved husband of Kathleen, deeply devoted father of Greg and Gerard, dearly loved grandfather of Emily, Alexander and Charlotte. Service at Easthampstead Park Crematorium on Monday April 22nd at 11.30 am. Family flowers only, but donations if wished to Duchess of Kent House, Liebenrood Road, Reading, RG30 2DX.

BOCK - Peacefully at home on April 14th 1996, Florence Johanna Henrietta aged 93 years. Much loved by Garfield, Clive, her loving family and many dear friends. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Friday April 19th at 10.30 am. Family flowers only, Donations in lieu to World End Health Care Team and The Harding Housing Association c/o Chelsea Funeral Directors, 260B Fulham Road, SW10 9EL.

BUCKHAM - On March 14th in Winchester after a short illness Arthur Harold much loved husband of Bevé, beloved father of Annie, the late Andrew, Isabelle Alice, Iain and Sophie and grandfather of James, Charles and Natasha. Funeral Service at Alresford Parish Church on Thursday April 25th at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be sent to The Hornby Educational Trust of which Arthur was the first Chairman and served for many years enabling the Charity to flourish c/o The Bursar, 261 Trinity Road, London SW18 3SN.

CUSHING - Professor George Frederick. At St Christopher's Hospice on 12th April 1996 aged 73. Emeritus Professor of Hungarian, London University. Service of Thanksgiving at the Methodist Church, Prince Imperial Road, Chislehurst, on Thursday April 25th at 3.15 pm. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to St Christopher's Hospice, Sydenham, or Chislehurst Methodist Church.

DUNCAN - On April 15th 1996, peacefully in Paignton, aged 88, Nancie Winifred, beloved wife of the late Dr. L.I. Duncan and much loved mother of John. Funeral at 2 pm April 26th at Torquay Crematorium, Hele Road, Torquay.

GREENLEES - Ysobel Ralston Greenlees; on Wednesday 17th April peacefully in her sleep in her 95th year. Dearly loved mother of Geoffrey and Joan, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service 11 am Holy Trinity, Ayr, on 25th April followed by private cremation. Donations to Save the Children, 55 Newmarket Street, Ayr. Flowers to M.L. Williams, Funeral Directors, 1B Falkland Park Road, Ayr.

HAWKEY - Jean Elizabeth. Tragically on April 2nd at The Royal London Hospital Whitechapel. Private funeral - no flowers please. Donations if desired to The Friends of Guy's Hospital c/o W.S. Bond, 127 High Road, London, W4 2ED.

HAWKINS - Leonard on April 15th 1996 in his 98th year. Past master of The Salters Company, husband of the late Dinky, stepfather to Shirley, beloved uncle of Gerald, Susan, Dorothy, Judy and Richard. Funeral at St Margaret's Church, Eartham on Wednesday April 24th at 11.15 am. Flowers and enquiries to Edward White & Son tel: (01243) 782136.

HEAD - Donald Edwin, on 16th April aged 76. Beloved husband of Margaret and much loved father of Janet, Christine and Karen. His funeral service will take place on Friday 26th April at 2 pm at St Mary's Church, Alverstoke, Gosport, Hampshire. Family flowers only. Donations to Gosport Charity Appeals Organisation and Wheelchair Trust. Enquiries to E.J. Crossland Ltd., Funeral Directors, (01705) 580074.

HOGAN - John James (Jack) formerly of Sunbury on Thames died peacefully at The Royal Star & Garter Home on 16th April. Husband of the late Josephine, much loved father of Jackie, Diana and Jane and grandfather of Charlotte, Rupert, Alexandra, Louise, Chloë, Joseph and Benjamin. Requiem Mass at St Elizabeth of Portugal, the Vineyard, Richmond at 3 pm on Tuesday 23rd April. Family flowers only. Donations, if wished, to BLESMA, Chadwell Heath, RM6 6NA, or The Royal Star & Garter Home, Richmond, TW10 6RR. Enquiries to Andrew Holmes & Son, 0181-744-1125.

LEWIS - Sheila Curtis (née Ledingham) on 16th April. Beloved mother of Philip, Susan and Christopher after a short illness, bravely fought, at St Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke. Funeral 3 pm 26th April at St Mary's Church, Bentworth, Alton, Hampshire. No flowers please, but donations to St Michael's Hospice c/o Charles Read & Daughter, 13 Turk Street, Alton, Hants. GU34 1AG.

LLOYD-THOMAS - David (late of The Welch Regt) at home on April 15th 1996. Beloved husband of Joy, dearly loved father and grandfather. Funeral Tuesday April 23rd 2.30 pm The Parish Church, Michaelston-y-Fedw, nr. Castleton. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to George Thomas Hospice, c/o Toveys, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent.

LOW - Allan on Wednesday April 17th, much loved husband of Jean and brother of Edward. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Steep, nr. Petersfield, on Tuesday, April 23rd at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if wished, to the Macmillan Service, King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, W. Sussex.

MACDONALD - On April 16th 1996, peacefully at Craigmount Nursing Home, St Andrews. John Macdonald of Hepburn Gardens, St Andrews. Beloved husband of the late Isobel, father of John, David and Sheila and proud grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at Dundee Crematorium on Friday 19th April at 12 noon. Family flowers only.

MOLLOY - Beckie, much loved wife of Kit and dearly beloved mother of Patrick and Sarah, peacefully on April 15th with her family at her side. Funeral Service on April 25th at 2.30 pm at St Nicholas Church, Leeds, nr. Maidstone, Kent.

NORTON - On April 15th, Nancy peacefully in Tolworth Hospital. Funeral Service at Kingston Crematorium on Tuesday April 23rd at 3 pm. Flowers and enquiries to A & E Longhurst, 21-23 Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey, tel: (0181) 393-1077.

QUICKENDEN - Neal Adrian died 6th April 1996. Dearly loved son of Dr. Kenneth and Rosemary and brother of Sarah. Service at St Peter's Church, Maney, Sutton Coldfield, Thursday 18th April 11.30 am. The burial service will take place at All Saints Church, Whitstable, at 12 noon Friday 19th April. Donations please for Leukaemia Research Fund c/o Ian Hazel Funerals Ltd., 8 Belwell Lane, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, B74 4AA.

ROBINSON - On April 16th 1996 peacefully at home, Elizabeth Margaret (Betty), dearly loved mother of Susan and Diana, and also a much loved grandmother of Claire and David. Funeral Service at Guildford Crematorium on Wednesday 24th April at 12 noon. Family flowers only, but donations if wished for The Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, may be be sent c/o Robert Ayling Funeral Services, 25 South Road, Guildford GU2 6NY, tel: (01483) 567333.

SARGAN - J. Denis, Emeritus Professor of Economic Science and Statistics, University of London (London School of Economics), suddenly and without suffering. Funeral at Harlow Crematorium, Parndon Wood, Harlow, 2.30pm 25th April. Flowers family only. Donations for MENCAP are being collected by D.C. Poulton & Sons, Clarks Lane, Epping CM16 4NJ. tel: (01992) 572609.

SAYRES - Née Armstrong. On 14th April 1996 peacefully at home Margaretta Elizabeth aged 89 years. Wife of the late Richard J. Sayres, devoted mother of Marianne and Edward, dearly loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at Blandford Parish Church on Tuesday 23rd April at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired for the Dorset Wildlife Trust may be sent to Colin J. Close Funeral Service, 1B Salisbury Street, Blandford, Dorset. tel: (01258) 453133.

SCOTT - Eustace Ian on April 14th in his 88th year. Beloved husband of Daphne. Funeral private. No letters please. Memorial Service Alverdiscott Parish Church, North Devon, Tuesday April 23rd 11 am. Donations if desired to British Heart Foundation.

SPURLING - Ian (Designer) died suddenly on Easter Sunday at Guy's Hospital, London. Mortlake Crematorium Chapel 10.30am Thursday 18th April. No flowers. Donations to Ian's favourite charity via Barbara Booroff c/o The Royal Ballet, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9DD.

VIGIER - Isabelle, aged 33, died tragically on 11th April 1996, in the Dusseldorf Airport fire. Beloved daughter of Monique and Gaby Chevalier, of Pont St Maxence, France, wife of Jean Francois and mother of Jean Baptiste.

WATSON - Harold Mark, on 16th April, at Kingston Hospital after a short illness, dearly beloved husband of Mary, father of Cathy. Former Professor of French at Memphis State University and President of the U.S.A. Claudel Society. Requiem Mass, St Joseph's Church, New Malden, Surrey, 10.45am Monday 22nd April. Flowers to Garnera, 55 The Broadway, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7DW.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

LESTER - The Memorial Service for Caroline Lester will be held in Temple Church on Thursday 9th May 1996 at 5 pm. Afterwards in Middle Temple Hall. Please note the change of date previously announced.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

GRAY - Lawrence Edward. Born 17th July 1936 died 18th April 1994, remembered with much love and affection by his family, wife Beryl, daughters Nicola, Jacqueline and Denise and grandson Oliver.

TAYLOR - Geoffrey died on April 18th 1995. Remembered with much love, Mary.

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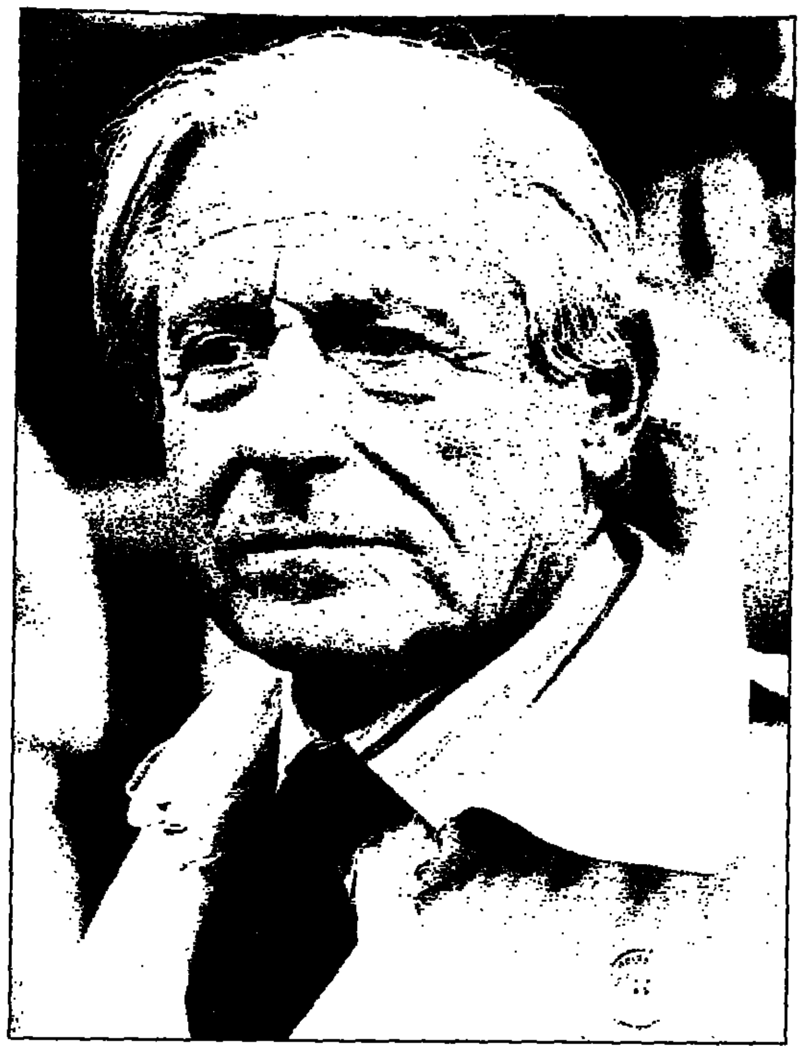
OBITUARIES

STAVROS NIARCHOS



Stavros Niarchos, Greek shipowner and financier, died in Zurich on April 15 aged 86. He was born on July 3, 1909.

WITH his great peer and competitor, Aristotle Onassis, the shipowner Stavros Niarchos was one of that handful of ingenious Greek businessmen whose talents and flair contributed to the creation of Greece's modern maritime status. Like some mercantile Agamemnon and Menelaus of their age, the pair — though, unlike the fraternal Argives, generally at each other's throats — seemed to bestride the seas with their ships. By the early 1980s (by which time his rival had died) Niarchos had built up one of the world's largest private tanker fleets — some four million tonnes deadweight. Notwithstanding that the slump which hit world merchant shipping also took a severe toll of his fleet, he was nevertheless big enough and canny enough to survive it.

Although his holding of ships was more than halved by the recession, emerging after it at little over 1.8 million tonnes deadweight from 26 tankers and bulk carriers, he was still in the top ten of Greek shipowners. But when a new generation emerged in Greece in recent years to take the lead, Niarchos diversified his investments and financial interests into property, art and the money markets. In purely shipping terms, by the time of his death he ranked 15th in the list of Greek owners, with 18 vessels totalling just over a million tonnes.

His rivalry with Onassis was replete with all the explosiveness implicit in the age-old proverb "When Greek meets Greek..." and had a sexual as well as a mercantile dimension. Their acrimonious business dealings came scarcely second in the public perception to the passion of both men for being seen in the company of the most glamorous — and if possible rich — women of their day. Indeed, the last of Niarchos's five wives had formerly been married to Onassis. A private island, luxury yachts, an educated taste for art and a string of racehorses were the other accoutrements of the life Niarchos led outside the world of his shipping and business interests.

Stavros Spyros Niarchos was born in Piraeus, the port of Athens, the son of Spyros Niarchos and his wife Eugenie. His birth took place soon after his parents returned from the United States where they had emigrated. He graduated at the Law School of Athens University and went to work in the Piraeus flour-mills owned by his maternal uncles. He soon showed the acute business acumen for which he was ever afterwards noted when he persuaded these relations to buy their own cargo ships to carry wheat to their mills. He himself invested all his money in one small ship. At the outbreak of the Second World War he had set up a small shipping office in Piraeus to operate his seven ships, which included two tankers.

In 1941 he offered this, still at that time modest, fleet to the Allies, while he himself joined the Greek Navy. For four years he served in destroyers escorting convoys in the North Atlantic. He was a lieutenant, Royal Navy, when he was demobilised and returned to his shipping business. Of his seven vessels only one returned unscathed from the war. He cashed in about £500,000 from insurance and promptly invested it in more ships. In an age before that of the supertanker he had a vision of the big ship. By 1949 he was building up to 18,000 tonnes with his *World Peace*. His 45,000-tonne *World Glory*, ordered in 1954, was then the largest tanker in the world (though a mere minnow by the side of today's half a million-tonne leviathans).

In 1956, when expatriate shipowners were urged to invest in Greece to help in their fatherland's economic development, he bid for the concession of the Greek national airlines, but lost to Aristotle Onassis, who went on to set up Olympic Airways. In 1957, however, he spent £8.5 million to build Hellenic Shipyards, a shipbuilding and repairing installation at Skaramanga, near Piraeus. By then he was regarded as one of the wealthiest men in the world. He owned villas in Paris, London, New York, the Bahamas and on the French Riviera, but preferred to live mostly at St Moritz where he had set up an extraordinary communications centre to keep an eye on the activities of his vast shipping empire.

He was a genial host and entertained in the grand manner, with an extravagance which was not, however, ostentatious when compared with that of Onassis. Spetsopoula, an almost deserted islet some fifty miles southwest of Athens, was fitted out as his private island retreat. He stocked the island with pheasants and partridges and entertained guests at shooting parties, among them the then King Constantine and Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands, Princess Margaret and members of other European royal families.

In the 1950s, when continental royalty in Europe was fast becoming an extinct species, he financed Queen Frederica's get-acquainted cruises for members of reigning and deposed royal and princely houses; this initiative eventually resulted in several marriages.

He was a keen sportsman and a great art collector. His luxurious motor yacht *Atlantis* — which replaced the three-masted schooner *Creole* — as well as his house in Paris were well stocked with the works of El Greco, Rubens, Goya, Gauguin, Van Gogh and Renoir. In January 1965 he negotiated a massive sale of 50 ships to an American corporation for $71 million.

But the deal was called off because of the sterling crisis which had made the American buyers hesitant, since most of the ships were under time-charters in sterling.

His long-standing rivalry with Onassis reached its climax in 1969 when the military dictatorship in Athens was offering a lucrative oil refinery contract in exchange for massive industrial investment projects. Onassis was on the verge of signing up a $600 million contract with the Greek Government when Niarchos stepped in with an attractive counter-bid, and managed to upset the negotiations. The two men denounced each other publicly and acrimoniously.

The Onassis deal eventually fell through, but Niarchos managed to secure for himself the ownership of one-half of the state refinery at Aspropyrgos in exchange for industrial investments of $200 million which were never carried out. When the dictatorship collapsed, the new Greek Government challenged the validity of Niarchos's deal with the dictators and bought him out of Aspropyrgos.

In 1985 he sold his shipyard to the Greek state when the ruling Socialists denied him permission for large-scale redundancies to offset serious losses caused by the shipping crisis and politically motivated labour unrest.

He was married five times: his first marriage, when he was 21, was a brief affair and lasted only a year. It is excised from the record books. He married, secondly, in 1939, Melpomene Capparis. There were no children of this marriage, which was dissolved in 1947. But it was his marriage in that year to the daughter of another Greek shipowner, Evgenia Livanos, that lasted longest. (Her sister, Tina, had married Onassis the previous year.) By her he had three sons and a daughter. Her death in Spetsopoula in May 1970 was from what the coroner described as an overdose of barbiturates, but bruises on her body also seemed to suggest violence and Niarchos was charged with manslaughter. A judicial council exonerated him. He was considerably embittered by the experience and his visits to Greece from Switzerland, which he had made his home, became less frequent.

However in 1965 he had briefly divorced Evgenia in order to marry Charlotte McDonnell Ford, by whom he had a daughter. They divorced 15 months later and he drifted back to Evgenia. Since the Greek Orthodox Church had never recognised his divorce from Evgenia this resumption of conjugal ties needed no formal sanction. Soon after Evgenia's death, he married her sister, Tina, the former wife of Onassis. It was assumed at the time that he had done this to spite his arch-rival or even to unite the gigantic shipping fortunes of the Niarchoses and the Livanoses. Tina died in Paris in October 1974 of a sudden illness (Onassis died in the following year). Niarchos did not marry again, but he was known to have had a series of tempestuous romances with beautiful women.

He is survived by the three sons and daughter of his marriage to Evgenia, and by the daughter of his marriage to Charlotte Ford.

SIR WILLIAM WILKINSON

Sir William Wilkinson, chairman of the Nature Conservancy Council, 1983-91, died after a stroke on April 12 aged 63. He was born on July 22, 1932.

AFTER a successful career in industry and merchant banking, latterly as a director of Kleinwort Benson, William Wilkinson sank his energies into what had always been his first love — wildlife and its protection. Ever since his boyhood, when his family had spent holidays in South Wales, Wilkinson had been fascinated by birds. Ornithology remained his lifelong passion.

He became the chairman during the 1980s — the last decade of its existence — of the now defunct Nature Conservancy Council, and had the unhappy experience of seeing that body wound down in 1991. Wilkinson had fought the new Environment Protection Act, which had paved the way for the NCC's closure, every inch of the way, and had been invested, as a result, with the aura of a hero by many of those working in voluntary conservation bodies.

William Henry Nairn Wilkinson was the son of a keen amateur ornithologist and housemaster at Eton. His mother was a lecturer in Classics at London University. He was educated at Eton, where he was a King's Scholar, and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was a Major Scholar, and read Classics. His main career was in industry and banking, and he held a number of directorships, at Lonhro in the early 1970s and at the merchant bankers Kleinwort Benson from 1973 to 1985. From 1986 to 1990 he was a board member of the former Central Electricity Generating Board.

All this was concurrent with his work for the conservation movement. During the 1960s, Wilkinson had worked in Turkey, and while he was there he helped to found the Ornithological Society of Turkey, which became the Ornithological Society of the Middle East under his chairmanship. When he returned to Britain, he became a council member of the RSPB, and its treasurer, 1971-76 and 1981-83. In 1983 he was made chairman of the NCC.

Joining the NCC at a critical stage in its development, he brought a new dimension to its activity, through his experience in finance and administration. He won the organisation a huge increase in budget, and gave a quality of leadership that carried it through to a new height of influence. Among his achievements was his successful battle to control the industry of afforestation, which was threatening to overrun many wildlife habitats. He was rewarded with a knighthood in 1989.

Eight years ago, personal tragedy struck when Wilkinson was suddenly and permanently afflicted by near-blindness. This was swiftly followed by the bad news that the Government had decided to devolve the powers of the NCC onto three bodies serving Scotland, Wales and England.

The crisis had originated in the Environment Protection Act 1990, one of the last legacies of Nicholas Ridley's time as Environment Secretary, an Act which Wilkinson had described as "half-boiled" since its early stage on the drawing board. He argued that the three new bodies would be underfunded and ill-prepared, and that it would be impossible for individual agencies to assess conservation needs on a national basis. Nor were they likely to wield the same sort of influence as the old NCC (something which Wilkinson suspected might have been the Government's original intention in founding them).

The plan was seen through into law by Ridley's successor, Chris Patten. Wilkinson delivered a scathing speech about the Government's action when he presented the council's final annual report in November 1990, and was given a standing ovation.

After the demise of the NCC, Wilkinson spent his last years giving enthusiastic support to the voluntary conservation bodies, and helping to raise their profile within the whole conservation movement. He was chairman of Plantlife, and president of the London Wildlife Trust and of the British Trust for Ornithology. As chairman of Birds of the Western Palaearctic, he helped to see this great nine-volume series of definitive bird books through to successful completion.

Wilkinson was a tactful man, and won many victories though friendly diplomacy, allied to a more hidden steely resolve. He had a flair for composing elegant speeches which hit all the right notes and disarmed the opposition. His other great love was music, especially opera, and he had a fine baritone voice. He was also a keen amateur archaeologist.

Faced often with extremely difficult decisions, Wilkinson brought a rare moral courage to his conservation work. And despite his blindness he bravely showed enormous commitment in meeting the duties he had undertaken, particularly in diligent attendance at meetings, though he owed much to the support of his wife Kate. Wilkinson continued to delight in wild nature, as when he was taken to see, however imperfectly, the charming dotterel nesting on the high mountain tops, and the Flow Country which he had fought so hard to save from the plantations of conifers.

William Wilkinson is survived by his wife, and by his son and two daughters.

SIR STEPHEN MILLER

Sir Stephen Miller, KCVO, Surgeon Oculist to the Queen, 1974-80, and Hospitaller of the St John Ophthalmic Hospital, Jerusalem, 1980-90, died on April 12 aged 80. He was born on July 19, 1915.

A MAN of remarkable surgical skill coupled with an impressive capacity for organisation, Stephen Miller achieved renown both within his profession as an ophthalmic surgeon and in related fields outside it. While a consultant at St George's Hospital he worked also at Moorfields Eye Hospital to establish the first glaucoma unit in London, offering a specialist level of care which would have been impossible to achieve in the general clinics of the time. In later years, he devoted his energies with the same unstinting enthusiasm to charitable work, rejuvenating the St John Ophthalmic Hospital, Jerusalem, a hospital whose policy was to hold its doors open to all in need, regardless of race or creed.

Stephen James Hamilton Miller was born in Arbroath, Tayside. The eldest of the family, he was a studious child and to those who did not know him may have seemed a little distant. His headmaster described him in a school report as "lofty and sour to those who knew him not, but to those who sought him, sweet as summer".

He read medicine at Aberdeen University, graduating in 1937. After a series of house appointments, including one in ophthalmology at the Royal Infirmary, Hull, he was called up in 1939 as a surgeon-lieutenant, RNVR. He had three years of general duties in the Mediterranean before, by an extraordinary act of confidence in view of his limited ophthalmic experience, he was appointed to the position of ophthalmic specialist at the RN Auxiliary Hospital, Kilmacolm, one of the busiest naval hospitals of the time. Given this opportunity, he essentially taught himself ophthalmology and in 1944 achieved the standard required for the Diploma of Ophthalmic Surgery and Medicine in London.

With his new qualification he was promptly seconded to the Royal Navy Hospital in Bighi in Malta. Here he impressed Air Commodore Keith Lyle, who intermittently visited and inspected the ophthalmic services of the Maltese hospitals, to the extent that Miller was asked to care for the RAF personnel on the island in addition to his naval duties. This contact with Lyle was to have a profound effect on his career at a later date.

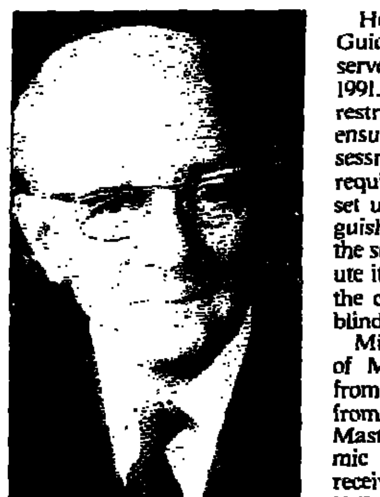
After demobilisation in May 1946, he took a brief appointment in Glasgow Eye Infirmary before an appointment as consultant ophthalmic surgeon in Hull Royal Infirmary. This, however, was not a success. Miller soon realised that the new hospital and equipment which had been promised were not to materialise and he resigned after only six weeks, predicting that a new hospital would not be built for 20 years. In fact, it took 21.

It was at this time that he once more sought the advice of Keith Lyle, who urged him to start again at the bottom of the ladder in London. Miller resigned his consultant's post to become a registrar on the house of the Royal Westminster Eye Hospital. When a sudden restructuring of ophthalmic services in London made it seem that there would be no consultant appointments available for several years, he left to live in California for a while, but returned to England again after just a few months and became registrar at St George's Hospital. In 1952 he was promoted to consultant in ophthalmology. Subsequently he was appointed to the consultant staff at Moorfields Eye Hospital, High Holborn, and the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen Square.

At Moorfields he was able to establish the first glaucoma unit in London, believing that progress and understanding and treatment of glaucoma depended upon careful examination of visual fields and other tests delegated to trained personnel. Similarly at the National Hospital, Queen Square, he established an ophthalmic unit second to none, using funds from the Frost Charitable Trust, of which he was chairman, to purchase new equipment.

In 1965 Miller was appointed Surgeon Oculist to Her Majesty's Household and subsequently, from 1974 to 1980, Surgeon Oculist to the Queen. In 1979 he was appointed a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

In 1980, at the age of 65, Miller retired from the NHS. He immediately became Hospitaller of the Order of St John in which capacity he was responsible to the manager of the St John Ophthalmic Hospital, Jerusalem. In 1980 the hospital's capital account stood at £250,000. Realising that this was wholly inadequate, Miller embarked upon a campaign to bring the work of the hospital to the attention of a wider audience. He achieved enormous success. When he retired as Hospitaller in 1990, the hospital had been re-equipped to the standards of a London teaching hospital and the capital account had been increased to more than £6 million. He was appointed a Knight of the Order of St John in 1978 and Bailiff Grand Cross in 1987.



He also supported the Guide Dogs for the Blind and served as a trustee from 1981 to 1991. He contributed to the restructuring of committees to ensure a more equitable assessment of those who might require guide dogs and he also set up a committee of distinguished members to advise the society how best to distribute its funds for research into the causes and prevention of blindness.

Miller served as a governor of Moorfields Eye Hospital from 1961 to 1967 and again from 1974 to 1977. He was Master of the Oxford Ophthalmic Congress, 1969-70, and received the Doyne Medal in 1972 and the Montgomery Medal in 1974.

He also wrote several textbooks, including *Modern Trends in Ophthalmology* (1973), *Operative Surgery* (1976) and *Parsons' Diseases of the Eye* (1978).

Miller's main sporting interest was golf, but in his retirement he took up again a boyhood pastime of fishing. He also played the piano.

He is survived by his wife Heather, whom he married in 1949, and by their three sons, the youngest of whom is now a consultant at Moorfields Eye Hospital.

ON THIS DAY

April 18, 1908

When to tip, whom to tip and how much are problems which can face people today, just as they did in the Edwardian spring of 1908. In country house circles it seems to have been felt that the chauffeur, the "spoilt darling of the servants' hall", had rather got above himself.

THE ABUSE OF TIPPING.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

As the practice of tipping has widened its scope by conquering the new countries of the world, so it has deepened its power over those who live in old countries where the *pourboire* has long been an established institution. For example, consider the fashion of tipping in the better-class London restaurants. Ten years ago a piece of silver was always sufficient to awaken the waiter's smile; a few coppers were a sufficient guarantee that he would bring you your hat and coat with the requisite deference. To-day, the waiter at any good West-end restaurant expects from 15 to 20 per cent on the amount of your bill. Anything else causes him to cast on you that look, which the boldest flinch from, intended to imply that you are a "gent" rather than a gentleman. The waiter, poor fellow, is not to be blamed for thus endeavouring to keep up the local standard of tipping. The management, which pays him no wages or even exacts a payment from him and so casts the burden of his maintenance on the public, is really to blame for the system. Not a few of the places where, a few years ago, one could dine with simple luxury and decorously at a reasonable cost have been spoilt for the person of moderate means by the lavish tipping of wealthy foreigners who leave a meteoric trail of gold and silver donations behind them as they "streak" through our poor, patient metropolis ...

But it is in certain country houses that one observes the most odious abuses of tipping. Time was when the man of moderate means could always accept an invitation to spend the week-end at some well-to-do friend's country seat or to enjoy a day's shooting. In the former case a single pound would cover all necessary donations; in the latter, a sovereign to the headkeeper and half-sovereigns, or even what the cabmen call "dollars," to his underlings were amply sufficient. In these days, however, five times as much is expected and paid as a matter of course. If, for example, you tip the chauffeur who takes you from and to the station on the same scale as, on the occasion of previous visits in days before the motor-car arrived, you tipped the groom who drove the dogcart, his manner of acceptance is apt to be positively impertinent. The chauffeur is still a spoilt darling of the servants' hall, though in the best houses successful efforts are being made to reduce his *status* to that of old-fashioned coachman, who, even if he is disappointed in the size of his tip, seldom or never allows his resentment to dislocate his manners ... The standard of tipping in country houses has now become so exorbitant that it is more economical to spend one's week-ends at a good hotel. As for shooting invitations, no man of small means can afford to accept them. The impudence of under-tipped keepers sometimes passes all bounds. A friend of mine, who offered two sovereigns to a headkeeper, received the amazing answer of a hand placed behind the back—a most emphatic refusal to take the gift—and the significant words, "Sir, this is a paper house." That was to say, nothing less than a £5 note should have been offered to this dignitary, who, to do him justice, had shown the party the best of sport ...

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THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY APRIL 18 1996

NEWS

School standards warning

■ Sir Claus Moser, who made a speech six years ago which ignited public anxiety over education, said last night that standards had slipped still further since then.

The former Warden of Wadham College, Oxford, who is an adviser to the Prince of Wales and was the founder of the National Commission on Education, welcomed recent government initiatives in schools, but argued that underachievement had become even more serious since 1990 .... **Page 1**

Duchess says Duke is her bestest friend

■ The Duchess of York declared that she would remain "the bestest of friends" with her estranged husband as the couple, along with 28 other petitioners, were granted a divorce in their absence in the Family Division of the High Court in a hearing lasting less than three minutes .... **Pages 1, 4, 20**

Major stands firm

John Major, speaking in Prague, let it be known that he will resist pressure for radical right wing policies after the Tories' drubbing at the Staffordshire by-election last week .... **Pages 2, 8, 21**

'Enemy alien' sues

A German-born pensioner who claims she was treated as an "enemy alien" and interned during the War has been granted legal aid to seek compensation from the Government .... **Page 3**

Bulger hearing

Michael Howard pandered to popular public outrage when he ordered that the schoolboy killers of James Bulger should be detained for a minimum of 15 years, the High Court heard .... **Page 6**

Gulf War damage

Chemicals used to protect soldiers from nerve gas and desert insects during the Gulf War could have caused neurological damage, new research finds .... **Page 9**

Kenwood protest

Sir Jocelyn Stevens was urged to resign as chairman of English Heritage unless he apologised for mocking patrons of London's Kenwood House .... **Page 10**

Lost birdsong

Millions of Britain's best loved songbirds are disappearing from gardens and the countryside, victims of intensive farming, pollution and building .... **Page 11**

Fascism beaten

Gianfranco Fini, leader of Italy's "post-Fascists" and the rising star of the election campaign, said the legacy of Fascism had been overcome and the tide was turning in his favour .... **Pages 12, 21**

Forgotten Chernobyl

Ten years after the world's worst nuclear accident at Chernobyl, the region around the crippled reactor looks like a forgotten battlefield. But the fight to contain radiation continues .... **Page 13**

The Golden Greek

The shipping magnate Stavros Niarchos often said "I feel Greek," but he was oddly stateless and travelled the world in luxury as the wandering Golden Greek .... **Pages 14, 23**

Imran takes guard

Cancer patients returned to Imran Khan's hospital in Lahore as the cricketer turned politician considered the impact of Sunday's bomb attack .... **Page 15**

Pacific pact

Japan and the US issued an historic declaration to strengthen their defence alliance and maintain peace and prosperity in Asia and the Pacific .... **Page 16**

Israeli battlecry

Israel's most senior military officer in Lebanon urged the Israeli Prime Minister not to order a swift end to Operation Grapes of Wrath .... **Pages 17, 21**

Dishing the dirt on art cleaning

■ The National Gallery, which will this month unveil a major restoration, was attacked for its "secretive" art cleaning policies and for a series of scientific "blunders" since the War that have altered the look of Old Masters including works by Titian, Veronese and Giampietrino. Michael Daley, the British art campaigner, was speaking in New York .... **Page 1**

DENZIL McNEELANCE

John Prescott and Tony Blair at the launch of Labour's local election campaign at Millbank Tower in London yesterday. Page 8

BUSINESS

Power: Southern Company, the US utility, appeared poised to reshape the electricity industry after confirming its intentions to take over National Power .... **Page 25**

Jobs: The Government maintained that unemployment is falling at a steady rate of about 10,000 a month .... **Page 25**

Economy: Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, both said they stand ready to raise interest rates again if necessary .... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 19.7 points to close at 3805.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 83.6 after a rise from $1.5082 to $1.5085 but a fall from DM2.2766 to DM2.2738 .... **Page 28**

SPORT

Rugby union: Pilkington will continue to sponsor England's senior knockout competition for a further three years. The finalists, Bath and Leicester, are seeking a greater share of gate receipts .... **Page 48**

Football: Duncan Ferguson, of Everton, will not play in the European championship finals for Scotland. He needs complete rest to cure a groin strain .... **Page 45**

American football: William "The Refrigerator" Perry has been displaced in the London Monarchs team by an English player, Lewis Capes, after one game of the World League season .... **Page 48**

Racing: A Jockey Club investigation failed to identify the causes of the deaths of ten horses at the Cheltenham Festival .... **Page 43**

ARTS

Monkey business: Bruce Willis is the time-traveller in Terry Gilliam's complex futuristic extravaganza, *Twelve Monkeys*. Other new films reviewed include the family drama *Before and After*, with Meryl Streep .... **Page 37**

Faust redeemed: The singing redeemed Welsh National Opera's staging of Gounod's *Faust*. "To call it all half-baked would be a slander on culinary art," Rodney Milnes writes .... **Page 39**

Canadian chic: Top choreographers are represented in Les Grands Ballets Canadiens at Sadler's Wells .... **Page 39**

Home comforts: Our new Thursday page of home entertainment has reviews of the new videos and classical CDs .... **Page 38**

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ EDUCATION
Gillian Shephard sets out the Government's plans for raising educational standards

■ ROCK
Nearly God, Tricky's moody extra-curricular "project", is reviewed by David Sinclair

FEATURES

Seeing double: When Alexandr Skorokhod strolls around Moscow people stop and stare, for he is the exact double of Boris Yeltsin, the Russian President .... **Page 19**

BODY AND MIND

Turn off: Relate says the increase in male impotence has much to do with the greater number of powerful women .... **Page 18**

Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the need for doctors to predict more accurately which psychiatric patients are prone to violence .... **Page 18**

TRAVEL

Tourist rationing: Tanzania plans to take steps to stop its most famous wildlife sights from being damaged by tourists .... **Page 34**

No-go areas: Airlines and tour operators are cancelling visits to the parts of Lebanon and Israel affected by fighting .... **Page 35**

BOOKS

The 20th century: Malcolm Bradbury on the chronicler of America; Martin Gilbert on Jerusalem; the aloofness of Milan Kundera; Michael Sissons: from school to the trenches .... **Pages 40,41**

THE PAPERS

Will the war of the "mad cow" become to John Major what the Falklands War was to Margaret Thatcher? — *Le Monde*

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Three years on, survivors recall the Waco siege. Witness (Channel 4, 9pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond on double bass notes that say it all .... **Page 47**

[illegible]

Tense times

The Government aims simply to get through the summer by hoping that the Ulster Unionists stay on side and the Grim Reaper stays away. That frustrates natural pugilists on both sides .... **Page 21**

Italian radicals

Italy's second republic cannot take shape without constitutional radicalism: Fini and Berlusconi offer the clear better alternative in this respect .... **Page 21**

On with the dance

Our cricketers are a bad joke, our best footballers are foreigners, and our rugby players have become better at scoring fees than tries. But at ballroom Britain is still world champion .... **Page 21**

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Nowadays adultery is quite fashionable, and it is thought priggish to speak ill of such a national institution. Yet there is no doubt that adultery causes alienation in marriage .... **Page 20**

MAGNUS LINKLATER

The conventional liberal view is that homosexuality is merely a variation on the sexual scale, that for a man to be gay is as acceptable as for him to be straight. This is the view Sullivan challenges ... **Page 20**

PETER RIDDELL

Brian Mawhinney's attack on Sue MacGregor on the *Today* programme was symptomatic of the nervousness at Conservative Central Office. They are adopting the wrong approach .... **Page 8**

JOHN BRYANT

There is something childlike about a marathon runner. What excites the thousands queueing to register for the London Marathon is a bag full of free goodies .... **Page 46**

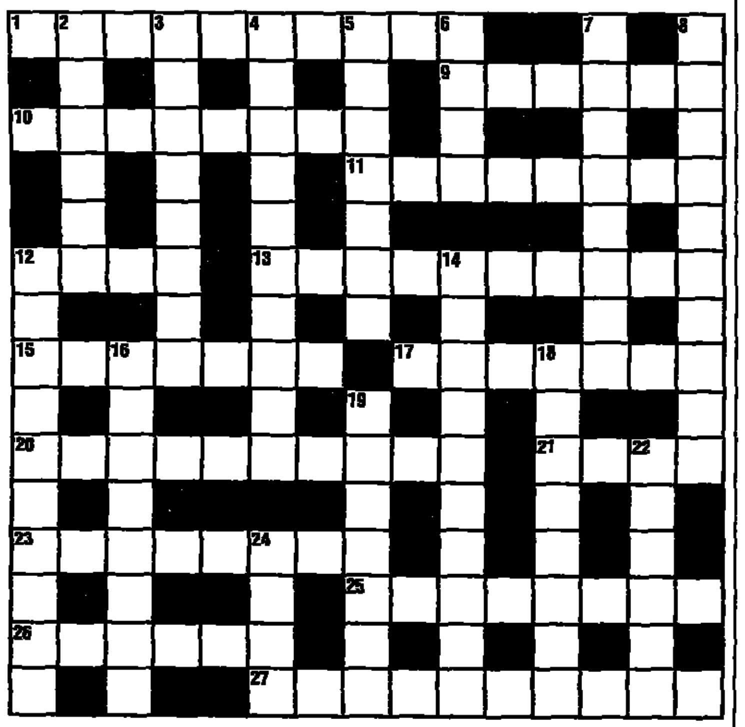
OBITUARIES

Stavros Niarchos, shipowner; **Sir William Wilkinson**, chairman of the NCC; **Sir Stephen Miller**, ophthalmic surgeon .... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Israeli attack; the monarchy; matters of class .... **Page 21**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,145



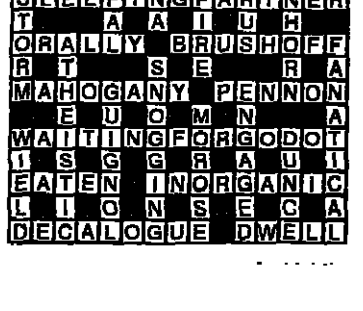
ACROSS

1 Economist goes by jet – he needs to strike while the iron is hot (10).
9 A rigid back (6).
10 Flog anklebone of Greek undergoing torture (8).
11 Languish in jail, perhaps, on private bunk (5-3).
12 Artistic conclusion a medic backs (4).
13 We should look forward to something, and be realistic (4,4,2).
15 Survive being dismissed, as it happens (7).
17 Jerky start in crossing (7).
20 This I'll site foolishly in non-alcoholic surroundings? (10).
21 Anti-American slogan showing sense (4).
23 Division revealed when outfit takes the plunge? (8).
25 Sum at first remaining inflated for piece of jewelry (8).
26 Toby's master works in a corporation (6).
27 The sum – subtract half of this, initially, from perfect answer (10).

DOWN

2 Sign worker installed inside shed (4-2).
3 Comprehensive head initially overwhelmed by abuse (5-3).
4 Sort of house, not flat (5-5).
5 Establish how visiting President, for one, should be received (7).
6 Hurt right inside thigh (4).
7 Brave and strong, like Van Gogh, partly (8).
8 Establishes legal digest (10).
12 The prospect of the rack? (10).
14 I bet, to make unknown amount with cash (3,2,5).
16 With discretion, brought up name that's on tip of tongue (5-3).
18 Peerless item unchosen, remarkably (8).
19 Elects to play by ear at first on this? (7).
22 Political grouping has succeeded in producing harmony (6).
24 Continuous bad feeling in teachers' centre (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,144



Times Two Crossword, page 48

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Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
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Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
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North-west England	742
North-east England	743
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Northern Ireland	745

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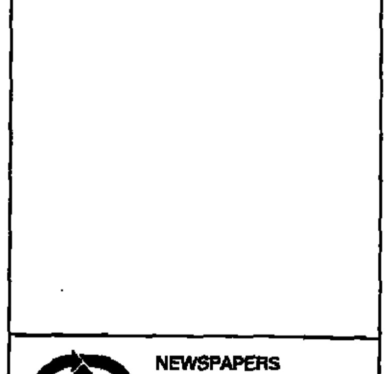
HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Cromer, Norfolk, 17C (63F); lowest day max: Fair Isle, 8C (46F); highest rainfall: Machrihanish, Kintyre, 0.89in; highest sunshine: Penzance, Cornwall, 9.6hr.



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 34.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1995

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain. The east and southeast will start dry but rain in the west will make erratic progress eastwards. The rain will be heavy at times, especially over the higher ground in Wales. Further east it will be lighter and more patchy.

Much of Scotland, along with Northern Ireland, will be cloudy with rain, heaviest in the west. Northern mainland Scotland and the Northern Isles will be cloudy but mainly dry at first.

It will be mild.

☐ **London, S E England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, Channel Isles:** dry at first, some brightness, outbreaks of rain later. Wind southerly, moderate to fresh. Mild, max 15C (59F).

☐ **W Midlands, S W England, S Wales, N Wales, N W England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England:** cloudy with rain, heavy at times. Wind southwesterly, fresh. Mild, max 14C (57F).

☐ **N E England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** dry at first, rain later. Wind southerly, fresh, later southwesterly. Mild, max 13C (55F).

☐ **S W Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, N W Scotland, N Ireland:** outbreaks of rain, heavy at times. Wind southeasterly, later southwesterly, fresh. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **N E Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** dry at first, rain later. Wind southeasterly fresh to strong. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday:** showers in the west, wet in the southeast. It will remain mild.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

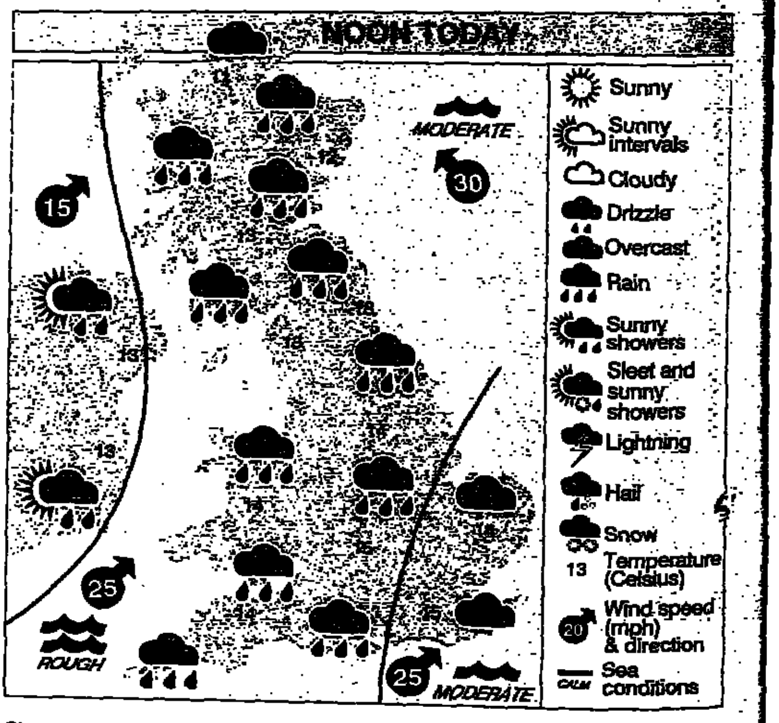
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.8	0.05	14	57	r
Anglesey	X				
Aspatria	1.5	0.11	11	52	r
Aviemore	-	0.17	11	52	r
Belfast	3.2	0.50	12	54	sh
Birmingham	3.8	0.02	15	59	sh
Bognor R	7.7	0.01	15	59	s
Bournem'th	9.5	0.08	15	59	s
Bristol	8.8	0.01	13	55	s
Buxton	2.4	0.14	11	52	sh
Cardiff	7.9	0.08	13	55	s
Clacton	5.3	-	15	59	s
Cromer	1.8	-	17	63	c
Eastbourne	5.7	0.01	13	55	s
Edinburgh	-	0.10	12	54	sh
Exmouth	7.8	0.23	14	57	s
Falmouth	8.8	0.34	14	57	s
Fishguard	X				
Folkestone	3.5	0.01	15	59	b
Glasgow	0.3	0.33	11	52	r
Guernsey	X				
Hastings	5.1	0.01	14	57	s
Hayling I	7.5	0.01	14	57	s
Herne Bay	3.7	0.01	16	61	s
Hove	5.4	-	11	52	b
Hunstanton	2.0	-	14	57	b
Ilfracombe	0.6	-	14	57	r
Isle of Man	4.0	0.59	11	52	s
Jersey	9.2	0.12	14	57	s
Kinloss	0.3	0.06	14	57	r
Leeds	2.7	0.05	14	57	r
Lerwick	0.2	0.18	8	46	r
Leuchars	0.5	0.51	12	54	r
Littlehmptn	6.7	0.01	15	59	s
London	3.0	-	16	61	s
Lowestoft	2.5	-	16	61	b
Manchester	1.0	0.08	13	55	sh
Margate	1.8	-	15	59	b
Minehead	8.1	0.28	14	57	s
Morecambe	1.6	0.23	12	54	d
Newcastle	X				
Newquay	8.8	0.30	13	55	s
Norwich	2.0	-	15	59	b
Oxford	6.2	0.01	15	59	s
Penzance	9.6	0.11	14	57	s
Poole	8.0	0.12	17	63	s
Prestatyn	X	0.10	13	55	b
Ross-o-wye	4.3	0.11	14	57	b
Ryde	7.9	0.01	15	59	s
Salcombe	9.3	0.25	13	55	s
Sandown	7.6	-	14	57	s
Sauntn Snd	7.8	0.24	13	55	s
Scarboro'	1.1	0.00	12	54	b
Shrewsbury	4.4	0.09	13	55	s
Skegness	X				
Southend	6.0	0.01	16	61	sh
Southport	4.4	0.36	11	52	s
Southsea	4.0	-	14	57	s
Stornoway	-	0.15	9	48	r
Swanage	9.0	0.13	13	55	s
Teignmouth	8.1	0.28	14	57	s
Tenby	X				
Tiree	1.3	0.13	10	50	r
Torquay	8.3	0.27	14	57	s
Tynemouth	-	0.03	13	55	b
Ventnor	8.6	0.02	13	55	s
West-s-mare	X				
Weymouth	7.9	0.10	13	55	s

ABROAD

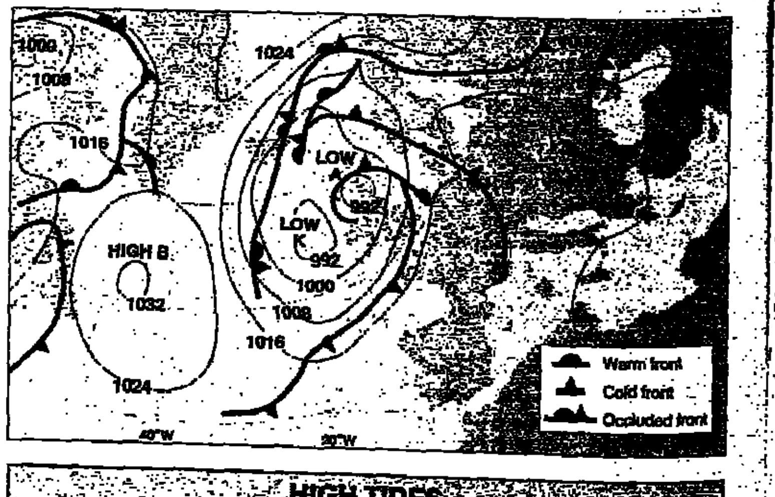
	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	17	63	s	Corfu	10	50	f	Majorca	17	63	d	Rome	16	61	s
Akrotiri	20	68	f	C'phagn	11	52	s	Malaga	19	66	f	S Fr'isco	15	59	f
Alex'dria	29	84	s	Dublin	11	52	r	Malta	15	59	c	S Paulo	27	81	f
Algiers	21	70	s	Dubrovnik	11	52	c	Melb'rne	16	61	c	Salzburg	10	50	f
Amst'dm	18	64	c	Faro	19	66	f	Mexico C	20	68	s	Santiago	21	70	s
Athens	17	63	s	Florence	19	66	s	Miami	28	82	s	Seoul	16	61	f
B Aires	17	63	c	Frankfurt	16	61	s	Milan	17	63	s	Sing'por	33	91	f
Bahrain	22	72	f	Funchal	18	64	f	Montreal	6	43	r	St'kholm	11	52	s
Bangkok	35	95	f	Geneva	13	55	s	Moscow	10	50	f	Strasb'rg	13	55	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	19	66	s	Munich	10	50	f	Sydney	21	70	s
Barcelona	20	68	f	Helsinki	7	45	f	N Delhi	34	93	s	Tangier	22	72	s
Beirut	20	68	f	Hong K	25	77	f	N York	11	52	c	Tel Aviv	21	70	s
Belgrade	2	36	sl	Innsbrck	12	54	s	Nairobi	24	75	f	Tenerife	26	79	s
Berlin	14	57	s	Istanbul	11	52	f	Naples	16	61	f	Tokyo	16	61	s
Bermuda	21	70	f	Jeddah	36	97	f	Nice	17	63	s	Toronto	4	39	c
Biarritz	22	72	s	Jo'burg	23	73	s	Oslo	7	45	f	Tunis	18	64	c
Borde'x	19	66	s	L Angels	19	66	s	Paris	16	61	s	Valencia	21	70	s
Brussels	17	63	s	L Palmas	21	70	s	Peking	16	61	s	Vanc'ver	14	57	c
Budapst	10	50	c	Le Touqet	16	61	s	Perth	27	81	s	Venice	15	59	s
Cairo	33	91	s	Lisbon	22	72	s	Prague	10	50	s	Vienna	9	48	f
Cape Tn	20	68	s	Locarno	X			Reykjavik	8	46	c	Warsaw	8	46	c
Ch'church	26	79	s	Luxembg	13	55	s	Rhodes	17	63	f	Wash'ton	12	54	c
Chicago	8	46	t	Luxor	30	86	s	Rio de J	35	95	f	Wel'ngton	19	66	s
Cologne	17	63	s	Madrid	21	70	s	Riyadh	22	72	f	Zurich	11	52	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low K and low A will edge northeast and fill very slowly. High B will remain fairly stationary and maintain central pressure



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1:30	7.2	2:08	7.4
Aberdeen	1:22	4.2	1:27	4.3
Avonmouth	7:19	13.9	7:39	13.8
Belfast	11:21	3.6	11:44	3.5
Cardiff	7:13	13.0	7:34	12.8
Devonport	5:54	5.5	6:16	5.5
Dover	11:23	6.7	11:39	6.9
Dublin (N Wall)	11:48	4.1	-	-
Falmouth	5:21	5.4	5:43	5.3
Greenock	0:32	3.3	12:53	3.5
Harwich	-	-	12:02	4.1
Holyhead	10:26	5.7	10:47	5.6
Hull (Albert D)	6:25	7.5	6:32	7.8
Ilfracombe	6:09	9.6	6:27	9.5
King's Lynn	6:19	7.0	6:37	7.2
Leith	2:39	5.5	2:56	5.6
Liverpool	11:24	9.7	11:42	9.5
Lowestoft	9:42	2.4	9:49	2.5
Margate	0:01	4.8	12:31	4.8
Milford Haven	6:18	7.2	6:37	7.1
Newquay	5:06	7.2	5:25	7.0
Oban	5:49	4.1	6:00	3.9
Penzance	4:44	5.7	5:03	5.6
Portland	7:00	2.2	7:22	2.2
Portsmouth	11:35	4.7	11:55	4.8
Shoreham	11:37	6.4	11:56	6.5
Southampton	10:53	4.5	11:16	4.6
Swansea	6:29	9.7	6:46	9.6
Tees	3:40	5.4	3:53	5.5
Walton-on-Naze	-	-	12:00	4.3

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.58 am
Sun sets: 8.03 pm
Moon sets 8.49 pm
Moon rises 6.20 am

London 8.03 pm to 5.56 am
Bristol 8.12 pm to 6.08 am
Edinburgh 8.26 pm to 5.57 am
Manchester 8.16 pm to 6.00 am
Penzance 8.21 pm to 6.21 am

First quarter April 25th

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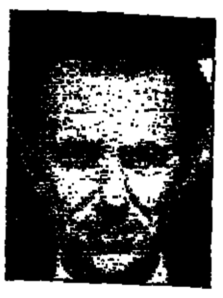

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY APRIL 18 1996

Huge regulatory hurdles to be overcome before offer can be made for generator

Americans plan National Power bid

By Christine Buckley

SOUTHERN Company, the US utility, yesterday appeared poised to reshape the electricity industry after confirming its intentions to take over National Power, Britain's largest electricity generator.

The move by the Atlanta company puts pressure on the Government, just as it is making its mind up on whether National Power and PowerGen should be allowed to take over regional electricity companies.

A full takeover by Southern of National Power could be worth up to £8 billion and is expected if the generators' bids for the regional electricity companies are cleared. Such a ratification would endorse the combination of generation and distribution in electricity and be crucial for Southern which already owns the UK regional company South Western Electricity (Sweb).

Southern is now believed to be talking with the Department of Trade and Industry and other authorities such as the Office of Electricity Regulation and the Office of Fair Trading. It will be seeking to persuade the Government to allow Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, to relinquish the golden share it holds in the generators, which prohibits stakes of more than 15 per cent.

Eggar: golden share

The move by Southern first faces considerable regulatory hurdles and a whiplash of political and consumer concern.

Labour called for a halt to the "ad hoc" restructuring of the industry and demanded a quick decision on the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report into National Power's proposed takeover of Southern (UK) and PowerGen's bid for Midlands Electricity.

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Power takeovers 29

Some City sources and industry watchers believe that Southern is not interested in National Power alone but also in the chance of moving on Southern Electric, for which the UK generator has bid. Although sources close to the US company reject that as the ultimate aim, the fit between National Power and Southern (UK) is better regarded than a link with Sweb, a stake in which Southern is looking to sell.

If the DTI throws out the generators' bids for the regional companies, thereby scuppering Southern of the US plans for vertical integration Southern could turn its attention to water, it is believed.

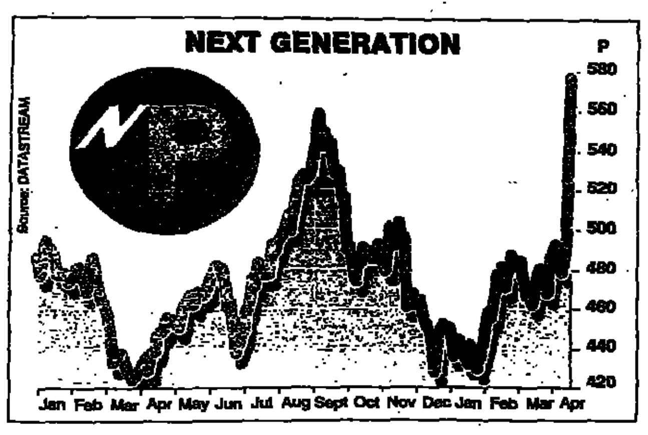
Some analysts in the City, which is divided over whether Southern will easily clear regulatory obstacles, believe the aggressive company is moving for the option on an all-out assault on the UK electricity industry and could want control over National Power, Southern (UK) and an interest in Sweb.

Southern rushed out a statement after midnight talks between Tom Boren, chief executive of its overseas division and John Baker, chairman, and Keith Henry, chief executive of National Power. Its next step will come after the ruling by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, on the generators' takeovers.

While a price still has to be negotiated, Mr Baker is already looking at a profit of nearly £900,000 on share options held. Mr Henry, who joined the company recently, does not have options disclosed in the annual report.

National Power was reluctant to comment yesterday beyond stressing that Southern could not move until after the DTI ruling.

Southern said only that it was interested in a combination of the businesses although a takeover is thought the only route. The DTI said a review of its golden share would be taken if there was a need to do so. It declined an assurance that it would hold on to the share which is timeless.



NEXT GENERATION

Source: DATASTREAM

Tom Boren, Southern's overseas chief executive, met National Power chiefs at midnight

John Baker, left, who is looking at £900,000 in share options, with Keith Henry

A tough company from the South

From Richard Thomson in New York

SOUTHERN of Atlanta, Georgia, is one of the largest and most aggressive of the US utilities. Its markets stretch far across the American South. It is the parent of five electricity concerns and involved in cable and telecom joint ventures and nuclear power.

In 1991, it sacked Jeffrey Hamburg as head of Southern Electric International, its overseas subsidiary, for "alleged unethical business practices" connected with an SEI bid for a Portuguese power plant. Mr Hamburg sued for $20 million for defamation, arguing that he was a scapegoat in the company's attempt to prove that it was whiter than white.

When it sacked Mr Hamburg the company said that it was anxious to maintain a clean record in business practices. This was hardly surprising since in the late 1980s it had been charged with several ethical and tax violations that had attracted the scrutiny of the taxmen and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

It is natural that the ambitions of such a large company should turn to foreign markets, particularly at a time when tight regulation at home is making it harder to earn the kind of profits to which Southern is used. It was typical of Southern's aggression that it was the first US company to buy a British utility, leading the way to a spate of bids by other American companies.

Its ownership of South Western Electricity (Sweb) has also encountered controversy via Swebgas's aggressive marketing campaign in the run-up to competition in the domestic gas market in the South West. The campaign drew a large number of complaints and Swebgas was forced to withdraw its doorstep sales drive.

Southern applied to the SEC last year for exemption from a rule that prevents American utilities from earning over 50 per cent of their profits from overseas. Last year, its earnings topped $1 billion, with revenues of more than $7 billion.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3805.5	(-19.7)
Yield	3.90%	
FT-SE A All share	1897.37	(-5.81)
Nikkei	21816.22	(-51.95)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5583.89	(-36.13)*
S&P Composite	641.95	(-3.05)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5¹⁄₁₆%*	(5¹⁄₁₆%)
Long Bond	89¾*	(90)
Yield	6.81%*	(6.79%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	5³¹⁄₃₂%	(5³¹⁄₃₂%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	105⁹⁄₃₂	(105²⁹⁄₃₂)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.5080*	(1.5077)
London:		
$	1.5085	(1.5082)
DM	2.2737	(2.2763)
FFr	7.7240	(7.7288)
SFr	1.8489	(1.8550)
Yen	163.26	(163.12)
£ Index	83.6	(83.6)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.5065*	(1.5100)
FFr	5.1180*	(5.1242)
SFr	1.2255*	(1.2300)
Yen	108.28*	(108.23)
$ Index	96.8	(96.8)
Tokyo close Yen 108.55		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jul)	$17.85	($18.40)
GOLD		
London close	$391.25	($392.95)

* denotes midday trading price

Woolwich meets

The Peter Robinson affair is likely to dominate today's annual meeting of the Woolwich Building Society. However, lawyers acting for Mr Robinson said the former chief executive would not attend. The issues to be raised include the external report now being prepared by KPMG, the accountant, and Linklaters & Paines, the solicitor, on the circumstances of Mr Robinson's departure. One Woolwich member will, however, miss a wedding to attend the meeting.

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Sea Empress

The environmental and economic costs of the *Sea Empress* disaster on the coast near Milford Haven two months ago could be as high as £64 million, according to estimates provided by the oil industry.

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Unemployment figures falling 'steadily' at 10,000 a month

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Government maintained that unemployment is falling at a steady rate of about 10,000 a month after a surprise rise in joblessness announced last month was followed yesterday by a larger-than-expected fall of 25,700 in the number of people out of work and claiming benefit.

But in spite of the better news on jobs, Whitehall and the City were concerned about a rise in average earnings growth — the first for eight months.

Last month's increase in claimant unemployment was also revised downwards yesterday, from 6,800 to 5,500.

Gillian Shephard, the Employment and Education Secretary, said that the two months' figures were consistent with the assessment by the Office for National Statistics of a downward trend of about 10,000 a month. "Britain has now entered its fourth successive year of steady growth in jobs and falling unemployment," she said.

Average earnings rose after seven months of flat growth of 3.25 per cent. Revisions to the figures mean that for the last month or two, earnings in manufacturing and service industries are now seen as rising at a rate of 3.5 per cent — the rate at which earnings across the economy are now increasing.

Some City analysts suggested that the upturn in average earnings growth could be the start of a continuing trend because the rise — albeit a gentle one — in pay settlements has not yet fed through into earnings growth.

Yesterday's fall in the unemployed count — the 35th in 39 months — takes unemployment to its lowest level since April 1991. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate fell from 7.9 to 7.8 per cent of the workforce, its lowest level since May 1991.

Whitehall officials suggested that the ending of industrial action by civil servants, the continuing impact of invalidity benefit and a five-week month all had an impact on the size of the fall. Unadjusted unemployment in March fell 72,167 to 2,330,799.

Michael Meacher, Labour's Shadow Employment Secretary, attacked the Government over the fall, saying: "Government ministers may make much of any fall in the unemployment figures, just as they try to ignore any rise. Of course, the movement in the official figures is now too erratic to draw any firm conclusions."

Don Foster, Liberal Democrat employment spokesman, said the figures showed that "Britain's economy remains in a fragile and lacklustre state".

New manufacturing jobs figures showed rising employment, and separate statistics from the Government's quarterly Labour Force Survey for the three months to February showed a 94,000 fall in unemployment and a 118,000 rise in employment.

Further rate cut unlikely

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, agreed to cut rates at their monetary meeting last month, but both said they stand ready to raise rates again if necessary.

Their statements, contained in the minutes of the March 7 meeting published yesterday, convinced the money markets that no more cuts in base rates can now be expected. Sterling futures had priced in another ¼-point cut, but moved sharply away from that view yesterday.

The minutes coincided with the latest economic outlook from the International Monetary Fund which said that it saw little room, if any at all, for further cuts in UK interest rates. This is in spite of predicting growth this year of only 2.2 per cent, well below the Treasury's prediction.

Pennington 27

In yesterday's minutes, Mr George recommended a ¼-point cut to 6 per cent at the March meeting, but said rates may have to be raised at some point further ahead if monetary growth did not moderate and if there was clearer evidence that growth had begun to accelerate.

Mr Clarke was neutral. Although he said that he stood ready to put rates up later this year if necessary, he said his position remained "that he would continue to be ready to move rates in either direction as the evidence justified".

The markets interpreted the remarks, along with recent data on the economy suggesting a genuine pick-up in consumer demand, as calling the end of lower rates in this economic cycle. The markets are now looking for base rates of about 7.25 per cent in a year's time.

PIA aims to hasten mis-selling review

By Robert Miller

THE City watchdog responsible for overseeing the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling review has given warning of a "serious" disciplinary crackdown on firms failing to make "sufficiently rapid progress".

The warning from the Personal Investment Authority, which polices firms selling direct to the public, coincided with details of the first compensation payments to be made for mis-selling personal pensions announced by the Investors Compensation Scheme. Of seven firms "declared in default" by the ICS, a mechanism to trigger compensation payments, Du Bara Investments and Individual Savings & Insurance Services are understood to involve more than 1,000 transfer cases. This is where investors were advised to leave generous occupational schemes for a private plan.

In the case of Du Bara, it is understood that dozens of former miners, who had been made redundant by their colliery in Nantgarw, Mid Glamorgan, were approached to leave the Mineworkers Pension Scheme in 1989.

The PIA said that, to date, about a million cases of mis-selling had been identified, of which 392,000 were in the priority category. So far, compensation has been offered in 7,000 cases and £6.7 million has been paid out.

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IMF says slowdown poses threat to EMU

By Janet Bush, economics correspondent

THE International Monetary Fund yesterday expressed concern that the economic slowdown in Europe is compromising the ability of Germany, France and others to meet the criteria for monetary union in 1999.

In its semi-annual *World Economic Outlook*, the fund revised down its forecast for world growth this year to 3.8 per cent from the 4.1 per cent it had expected in October, a move that largely reflected disappointing developments in the European economies.

The fund said that there is room for further reductions in interest rates in Europe to boost growth and counterbalance the dampening effect on economic growth of budget deficit cutting programmes, designed to meet the Maastricht treaty's fiscal criteria for entry into monetary union.

It said that the fiscal targets are still feasible provided economic growth picks up as it expects. The fund is projecting that world growth will recover to 4.3 per cent in 1997. Germany, expected to grow by just 1 per cent this year, should see growth of 2.9 per cent in 1997 while French growth should accelerate from 1.3 per cent this year to 2.8 per cent next year.

But the fund said that it will not be easy to hit the Maastricht targets and that there could be more turbulence ahead for the French franc.

"Qualification by a sufficiently large number of countries is by no means assured," it said, suggesting that the fiscal targets might be interpreted liberally to ensure that monetary union goes ahead on schedule.

It suggested, for example, that governments should focus on the structural component of their deficits rather than actual deficits which have been swelled by extra social security and unemployment benefit payments because of the economic slowdown.

The European growth problem specifically relates to those countries whose currencies shadow the mark closely. Countries outside the exchange-rate mechanism have outperformed those inside it, Britain and Italy being prime examples. It suggested that there was scope for some appreciation in both sterling and the lira.

The fund predicted steady American growth, forecasting 1.8 per cent growth this year and 2.2 per cent in 1997. But it said that there was a significant risk to the US recovery if President Clinton and Congress fail to reach agreement on balancing the US budget.

The IMF was also positive about Japan, with growth of 2.7 per cent predicted for this year and 3.1 per cent next year. This compares with only 0.9 per cent in 1995. The fund applauded the sharp fall in the yen after the record levels seen a year ago.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.02	1.86
Austria Sch	17.03	15.53
Belgium Fr	49.79	45.49
Canada $	2.157	1.997
Cyprus Cyp£	0.750	0.695
Denmark Kr	9.41	8.61
Finland Mkk	7.73	7.08
France Fr	8.14	7.49
Germany Dm	2.43	2.22
Greece Dr	387.00	362.00
Hong Kong $	12.31	11.31
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1900	4.5400
Italy Lira	2481.00	2326.00
Japan Yen	177.70	161.70
Malta	0.591	0.536
Netherlds Gld	2.699	2.469
New Zealand $	2.36	2.14
Norway Kr	10.42	9.62
Portugal Esc	245.00	226.50
S Africa Rd	6.86	6.06
Spain Pta	197.00	184.00
Sweden Kr	10.81	10.01
Switzerland Fr	1.99	1.81
Turkey Lira	115552	107552
USA $	1.605	1.475

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

MICHAEL POWELL

Lord Tugendhat said the home loans market showed signs of only a moderate pick-up

Abbey chief cautious on housing market

By Robert Miller

LORD Tugendhat, chairman of Abbey National, yesterday cautioned against an over-optimistic view on prospects for the UK housing market this year.

He told the bank's annual meeting that while the level of mortgage applications received had been "encouraging" the home loans market as a whole still only showed signs of a "moderate pick-up".

Lord Tugendhat, whose salary rose to £263,762 last year against £242,393 in 1994, said that the Abbey National Bank Account continued to perform well, with an average of more than 10,000 new accounts being opened every month. Abbey National has also issued 30,000 of its new Visa credit cards since the February launch.

Lord Tugendhat said that the two major fiscal milestones in 1995 were a pre-tax profit of more than £1 billion and the rise in assets to top £100 billion. The 2.4 million shareholders, who can expect a dividend payout of 21.75p per share for the full year, have seen the value of 100 free shares handed out at the time of the former building society's stock market conversion in July 1989 more than quadruple, Lord Tugendhat said.

Voting on the proposed takeover of the National & Provincial Building Society last week attracted an impressive turnout, with 83 per cent of eligible savers and 71 per cent of borrowers voting in favour of the deal.

Small firms more optimistic

By Philip Bassett, industrial editor

BRITAIN'S small businesses are showing signs of economic recovery, and their support for the Conservatives is growing, according to new survey evidence today.

Ministers will be pleased by the findings of the latest survey from Kingston University's Small Business Research Centre, one of the principal small business study centres in Britain, suggesting increased optimism and performance by small companies.

The Government and Labour have both been targeting the small business vote with a range of policy initiatives, and the latest Kingston study is the first measure of small companies' voting intentions since the two main political parties intensified their campaigns in advance of the forthcoming general election.

Previous surveys by Kingston have shown that, while the Conservatives are the most popular party, small business support for the Tories is about half the level it was in the early 1980s and that the gap between the parties has been narrowing.

But the latest Kingston survey for Office World, the stationery supply company, shows improved support for the Conservatives — up from 27.5 per cent last November to almost 32 per cent now.

Labour's support is steady at 26.5 per cent, while the Liberal Democrats have slipped from 14.9 to 13.7 per cent. Almost 30 per cent of small business owners refuse to give any voting commitment.

However, small firms are feeling more confident. Their optimism about the economy has leapt from 39 per cent in November to 56 per cent in what the study says is the first sign of an improving "feel-good" factor since the summer of 1994. Small firms are also more optimistic about taking on new employees.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lloyd's application to postpone lost

LLOYD'S of London yesterday lost its application to postpone a crucial High Court action on the grounds that a delay would not disadvantage the market's attempt to settle with its litigating names. The case centred on whether Lloyd's has the right to seize directly any court awards made to successful litigants. That is rather than names receiving the compensation awards and deploying the funds as they see fit.

Thousands of litigating names have already won damages from a string of High Court actions. However, the funds are being held in escrow until the outcome of Lloyd's £2.8 billion-plus settlement offer is known. In an attempt to capture the money directly, Lloyd's amended names' premium trust deeds and it is the legality of this change that is being tested.

Designs on a quote

DONNA KARAN is joining other fashion designers who have launched shares on the stock market recently, taking advantage of the boom in luxury goods. The New York designer plans a global share offering worth about $230 million in the early summer. This is the second attempt. The original offer in August 1993 was pulled after the retailing downtrun. Donna Karan had sales of $510 million last year. Morgan Stanely and Bear Stearns are lead managers.

Havelock Europa ahead

HAVELOCK EUROPA, the maker of bank and shop interiors, saw profits rise 32 per cent to £5.3 million before tax. Bank of Scotland was its main customer as it replaced 1980s-style bullet-proof glass counters with open-plan, carpeted suites in 56 branches. Deals with Lloyds TSB and the Co-operative Bank almost quadrupled Havelock's banking sector, providing 44 per cent of turnover. The total dividend rises to 3.6p a share from 3p, with a 2.4p final. Earnings were 13.5p a share (11.2p).

TeleWest to take on 1,000

TELEWEST COMMUNICATIONS, the largest cable company, plans to add about 1,000 employees this year, raising its workforce to 5,000, as it expands its network. Most of the jobs will be created in engineering and installation, customer services and sales and marketing. Separately, Nynex CableComms, the industry's second-largest player, said it had raised its cable TV and cable telephony penetration rates in the quarter to March 31. Total revenues rose 92 per cent to £32.5 million.

LDV accelerates

LDV, the van manufacturer, launched out of the collapsed Leyland DAF group, said pre-tax profits for 1995 rose £5 million to £23.2 million after a 43 per cent increase in turnover. Vehicle sales rose 21 per cent to more than 15,000 last year, with exports starting to have an increasingly beneficial impact on the company's trading performance, according to Allan Amey, the chief executive. LDV has created 500 new jobs and doubled output over the past three years.

New look AT&T results

AT&T, reporting results for the first time since it announced an important restructuring, lifted first-quarter profits 14 per cent to $1.4 billion. The results omit subsidiaries it plans to sell or demerge. The earnings, equal to 90 cents a share, came on revenue of $12.9 billion. A year earlier, the comparable units of AT&T earned profits of $1.3 billion, or 80 cents a share, on revenue of $12.4 billion. With the other units included, AT&T earned $1.362 billion ($1.198 billion), or 85 (76) cents a share.

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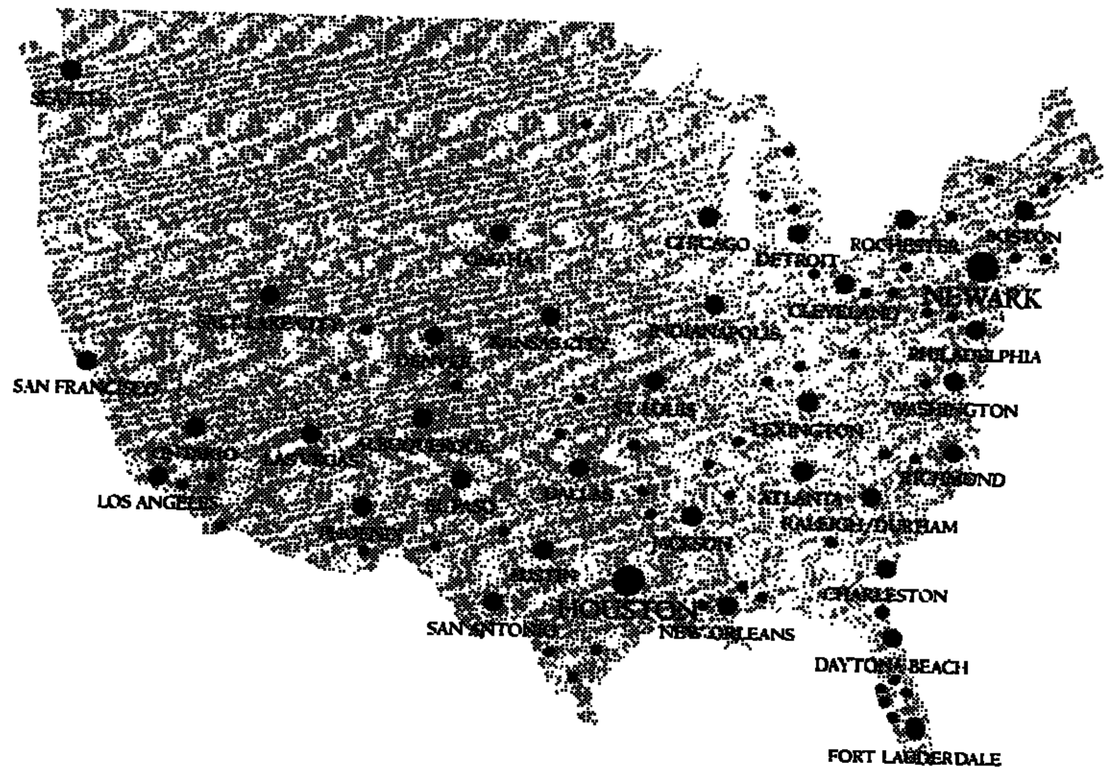

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"...in the THREE MONTHS UP TO THE END of December 1995, 1,033,668 patients were waiting for up to 11 months, and 28,889 for between 12 and 17 months."

Taken from: Department of Health, Press Release 12th February 1996, Stephen Dorrell.

"Patients who cannot accept an offered admission date are said to be self-deferred and returned to the bottom of the in-patient WAITING LIST."

[SOURCE: "Waiting Times: Monitoring the Total Postreferral Wait". By Trevor Smith BMJ v309 British Medical Journal Sept 3 '94, p583]

"...Waiting lists do not always arise through mismanagement of resources, they arise because resources are inadequate."

[SOURCE: "Waiting Times for Radiotherapy Treatment: Not all that Mysterious and Certainly Preventable." Clinical Oncology (Royal College of Radiologists). 6(5):314-8, 1994.]

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هكذا من الاول

☐ DTI must act on power mergers ☐ City goes sour on rate cuts ☐ The great ostrich disaster

Electric shock treatment

☐ THERE is a pleasing irony about Southern creating the most serious political problem yet for the Government from the round of utilities bids. For this was the company which, in a serious misjudgment, was first allowed into the sheep pen.

The Americans launched the first successful bid for a British regional electricity company in July. That bid should have been blocked to allow a thorough inquiry into the carve-up of British utilities that was clearly inevitable. It was not, mainly because no one in authority could think of a good reason.

The bid opened the gates for all the others, each more suspect politically. The defining moment was when the first approach by a generator for a regional company, the ScottishPower assault on Manweb, was waved through. By the time the DTI had got up the nerve to put a couple to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the carve-up was beyond stopping.

So the situation now throws up several embarrassing anomalies. As this column pointed out only yesterday, Southern as an American is rather better placed to take control of the country's biggest power generator than most indigenous rivals. This is because any American offer, on pure competition grounds, should be allowed, but any British bidder will almost inevitably be operating in a similar industry, so the interests of competition policy require a reference to the MMC.

The second embarrassment is that a Southern bid could be referred or blocked entirely on public interest grounds — had the Government, not once but twice, tacitly accepted such a move. In 1991, ahead of privatisation, PowerGen's directors were cutting up nasty; they were threatened with purchase by Hanson, an Anglo-American combine. Earlier this year British Energy were doing likewise; enter Duke, a Texan utility, as possible buyer and with ministers' blessing.

So there is no logical reason to block any bid, should it emerge and should Southern, as it has promised, ration itself to the regional company already in the bag, South Western. How the DTI must wish there was. It is probably as well that the Energy Minister there, Tim Eggar, is not standing for re-election next time. But the sight of US mega-utilities rampaging through the electricity industry sacking people as they go will not play well in marginal constituencies.

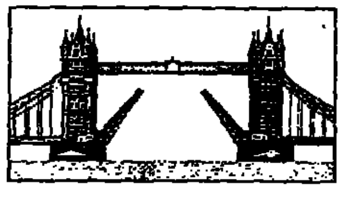
The timing of any Southern bid for National Power is going to be tricky, as the two generators' own approaches on Midlands and Southern of the UK are still tentative. As the whole world knows what line the MMC has taken, a swift DTI decision is essential. This would allow firm bids to be made and agreed, and Southern of the US to make its move. Shareholders in National Power and Southern UK could then reach what decisions they choose. There is quite enough uncertainty in the markets already.

Turning point for the markets

☐ THE latest batch of economic figures may come to be regarded as something of a turning point, for yesterday the financial markets finally gave up hope of another cut in interest rates in this economic cycle.

The ingredients in this change of heart included another healthy drop in headline unemployment, but monthly figures are bouncing around wildly at the moment and it is hard to establish a firm trend. Then there was the long-awaited nudge up in average earnings growth from the 3.25 per cent which has prevailed since last April to 3.5 per cent.

PENNINGTON



Earnings growth has returned to the rate seen last June and is still below those prevailing in late 1994 and early 1995. But the 3.25 per cent figure has been an increasingly cherished talisman for Britain's inflation optimists, who saw it as an indication that the lid was firmly on, so some kind of spell may have been broken by yesterday's numbers.

There was the assertion in the minutes of the March 7 monetary meeting by both Ken Clarke and Eddie George that, although they were cutting rates now, they stood by to raise them again if necessary. This is no more than a statement of the obvious, in the same way that a prospectus warns shareholders that prices go down as well as up.

The stock and gilts markets were reacting, therefore, in their usual kneejerk way, to the mere mention of higher rates — even if no betting man in the City expects higher rates ahead of an election. The closer that date gets, the harder it will be for the Chancellor to tighten money without sending his party into paroxysms. No politician behind in the polls wants their man to don the economic hair shirt.

What, then, of the view, widespread in the City until yesterday, that one more rate cut was in the bag? It may still be that current manufacturing doldrums may reverse the favourable trends in employment and justify another cut. But if the economy carries on growing, after a fashion at least, there seems little mileage left in the belief, given that warfare in the building society industry is delivering low mortgage rates without the need for a move from the Chancellor.

Investors who stick heads in the sand

☐ PROFESSOR Jim Gower, architect of the Financial Services Act, summed it up. The object of the Act, he said, was not to prevent fools losing their money, but to prevent reasonable people being made fools of.

This is one reason why ostriches do not rate a mention in the FSA. Another is that a decade ago no one could envisage investing in them, any more than in a collection of classic cars or any of the other off-the-wall ideas that have parted investors from their money since then.

It is possible to feel real sympathy for those who have put up to £75,000, in some cases their life savings, into the Ostrich Farming Corporation, now the subject, amid great bitterness, of a winding-up order by the DTI. It is not possible to understand such foolishness. Investment spans a vast spectrum from the downright idiotic at one extreme, Nigerian scam letters and their like, to legitimate bonds and shares at the other, and the rewards that are claimed *always* reflect the degree of risk.

At various points along this spectrum, but all clearly at the riskier and more rewarding end, have been classic cars, timeshare apartments, BCCI and Barlow Clowes, even a weekly flutter on the National Lottery. Ostriches too were situated at the speculative end of that spectrum, and comments in the financial press reflected this high risk.

The recriminations that have followed the collapse of the Ostrich Farming Corporation, as investors attempt to identify and take possession of the birds they thought they owned, do not change these simple rules of investment. Nor, one suspects, do they prevent the whole sorry story being repeated again and again elsewhere.

The next bet

☐ SPEAKING of the naive hopes of some investors, a caller to this office yesterday had this simple inquiry. Did we know which building societies were still independent — and which would be the next to be taken over? No, but if you ever find out, do let us know.

Open to offers: Signet, headed by James McAdam, is considering bids for H Samuel and Ernest Jones

Signet results could end long-term financial crisis

By Paul Durman

THE rebel shareholders in Signet Group, the jeweller that owns H Samuel and Ernest Jones, believe yesterday's good results offer the company a chance to put an end to its long-running financial crisis.

Julian Treger of the UK Active Value Fund, which leads a concert party that controls 24.1 per cent of Signet's voting rights, said the two UK jewellery chains should very easily command a price of £300 million when they are sold in the next few weeks.

Mr Treger said this should allow Signet to repay preference shareholders the £510 million he says they are owed. "There seems to be enough for everyone to go round," he said.

Signet, headed by James McAdam, is considering offers for H Samuel and Ernest Jones, from bidders including rival jewellers Goldsmiths and Argos. Mr McAdam said Signet was under no pressure to sell and would only do so if it could realise the "strategic worth" of the 600 stores.

The group made annual pre-tax profits of £25 million, a 74 per cent improvement. Operating profits rose 30 per cent to £63.9 million, but Signet was burdened by £38.9 million of interest payments on its debt, which it has trimmed back to £308.2 million. Signet has refurbished nearly all of the 167 Ernest Jones shops, and these are showing a 24 per cent improvement in like-for-like sales in the first ten weeks of this year.

The total United Kingdom market is showing a 7 per cent increase, while the 433-store H Samuel is only 1 per cent ahead. Signet will shortly start introducing a new shop design to H Samuel.

In the United States, Sterling increased its profits by 39 per cent to £45.9 million, with margins climbing back above 8 per cent.

Signet is anxious to simplify its complex capital structure which includes nine classes of shares. It owes £135 million on its preference shares and is unable to pay dividends.

Walker Boyd, finance director, said the £90 million of ordinary shares represent only a quarter of the full market value of the company.

Improved United Kingdom profits of £18.1 million (£11.4 million) showed the benefit of the sale of the loss-making Salisburys travel goods chain.

Signet said that the underlying profits of the United Kingdom jewellery business also rose, by 15 per cent to £27.2 million, in spite of a 1.5 per cent fall in sales. Its margins rose to 8 per cent.

IBM suffers $500m drop in earnings

From Richard Thomson in New York

IBM, the world's biggest computer manufacturer, suffered a $500 million drop in net earnings in the first-quarter of this year because of sluggish markets and delays in switching to its new mainframe computers.

Although revenues climbed from $15.7 billion to $16.5 billion, net earnings fell to $774 million. "We turned in a good but uneven performance," said Lou Gerstner, the chairman and chief executive. He said that revenues grew in all geographic areas and shipments of Lotus Notes, which IBM purchased for more than $3 billion last year, had more than trebled. "At the same time, though, our overall hardware revenues and margins were disappointing," he said. This was mainly because of the transition to the company's new mini-mainframe computers, the System/390 and AS/400. Weak demand for personal computers in the US and continuing downward pressure on prices for many products eroded the company's profit margins.

The results did not damage the perception that IBM was successfully recreating itself after several disastrous years of falling profits and market share. Many computer companies have been hurt over the past few months by declining sales and tighter margins.

Lloyds TSB waits on New Zealand bid

By Robert Miller

LLOYDS TSB Group is expected to learn today whether its bid to buy Trust Bank of New Zealand has been successful after a last minute counter-bid by Westpac of Australia.

Trust Bank has been studying the merits of the Westpac bid, understood to be a cash deal, against that of the long-standing offer from National Bank of New Zealand, a Lloyds subsidiary. It is believed that the latter's bid is similar to that of the Lloyds acquisition of TSB which was, in effect, a reverse takeover paid for with shares instead of cash. Some analysts believe that a third party, ASB Bank, which is 75 per cent owned by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, might also be still in with an outside chance.

Since the formal bidding for Trust Bank started some weeks ago the price tag has risen to about NZ$1.5 billion or £676 million.

The final decision on the preferred bidder rests with the nine community trusts that control nearly 80 per cent of Trust Bank.

Lloyds TSB said last night: "We never comment on market rumour." If the UK group is successful in its bid for Trust Bank it will become New Zealand's largest bank with assets of nearly NZ$24 billion.

Robinson clouds Woolwich AGM

By Anne Ashworth and Robert Miller

THE Peter Robinson affair is likely to dominate the agenda at today's annual meeting of the Woolwich Building Society. However, lawyers acting for the man at the centre of the controversy said the former chief executive would not attend.

The issues to be raised include the external report now being prepared by KPMG, the accountant, and Linklaters & Paines, the solicitor, on the circumstances of Mr Robinson's departure last month. The society will not yet disclose contents of the report to members, claiming it contains confidential information, which is likely to irritate the assembled members.

Henry Clinton-Davis, of D J Freeman, the law firm representing Mr Robinson, said only a limited amount of information concerning the allegations against his client had been handed over so far. Until the full report has been received and studied, Mr Clinton-Davis said no further comment would be made. Mr Robinson and his legal team are understood to have taken counsel's advice on compensation for loss of his £320,000 post.

The continuing uncertainty over Mr Robinson's successor has made the Woolwich a prime takeover target. Among those with a clear interest in acquiring the £3 billion society could be the Prudential, the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Halifax. However, Abbey National has said it will not bid. A European or Australian institution might also want to get involved. The Woolwich says no customer has, so far written or called to criticise the move to oust Mr Robinson. Head hunters compiling a shortlist to replace him are looking not only at building society executives but also those experienced in running FT-SE 100 companies.

RJR Nabisco raider admits defeat

BENNETT LEBOW, the corporate raider, has conceded defeat in his battle to force RJR Nabisco to spin off its tobacco business from its food side (Richard Thomson writes from New York).

His unexpected capitulation means that his strategy of settling tobacco-related law suits at Liggett, his own company, which caused uproar in the tobacco industry, has failed. His aim was to persuade RJR to follow suit.

The settlement, the first of its kind, backfired because it opened the floodgates to cases against other companies, which caused tobacco share prices to plummet and angered RJR investors.

Bell Atlantic and Nynex close to $22bn merger

From Richard Thomson in New York

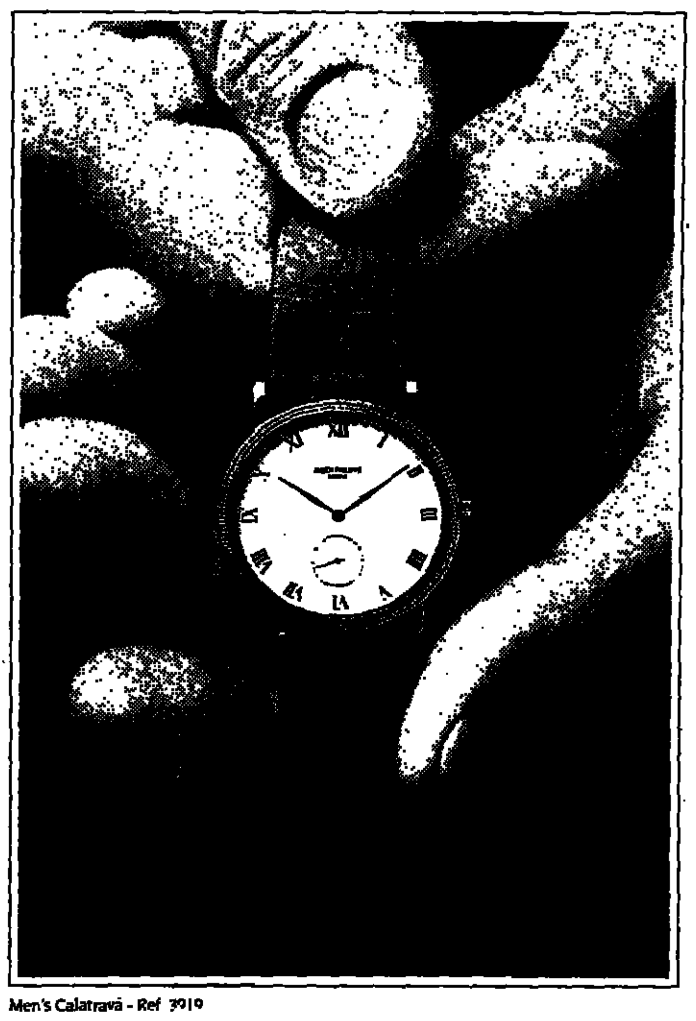
BELL ATLANTIC and Nynex are expected to announce a $22 billion merger in the next few days, creating the second link-up between two US regional telephone companies since the deregulation of the telecoms industry.

Insiders say that the two companies, which dominate the east coast market in local telephone traffic and have been in intermittent talks for months, are close to agreeing a price at which Bell Atlantic would use stock to buy Nynex. It would be one of the largest deals in US coporate history, catapulting the merged company into second place in the industry behind AT&T.

Bell Atlantic-Nynex would have more than 36 million customers, $3 billion in earnings and more than $27 billion in annual revenues. As well as consoldiating their hold on the east coast to fight off competition from the long-distance companies, Bell Atlantic and Nynex would be in a stronger postion to break into the long-distance market after merging.

The proposed merger is further evidence of the intense pace of consolidation within the US telecoms industry after new rules that allow the so-called 'Baby Bells', which control local phone traffic, and the long-distance operators such as AT&T and Sprint to penetrate each other's markets. A month ago there were seven 'Baby Bells', but after the latest merger there will be only five. Analysts expect further mergers in the near future.

Previous talks between Nynex and Bell Atlantic foundered on the question of price, but analysts believe Nynex may now have accepted a deal at around its current share price of $51. This already has a substantial bid premium factored into it, which is similar to the premium SBC is paying for PacTel. Atlantic Bell has resisted Nynex's demands for a higher premium on the grounds that there are no other bidders for Nynex.



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Men's Calatravā - Ref 3919

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares fall as hopes of rate cut are dashed

GOVERNMENT bonds and equities fell sharply on the London stock market as the prospects of another early cut in interest rates took a knock.

Investors were rattled by the latest fall in unemployment which was coupled with a rise in average earnings. To make matters worse, it emerged that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, had contemplated a rise in interest rates at their last monthly economic meeting.

An opening fall of more than 40 points in the Dow Jones industrial average set the seal on a gloomy day's trading and brought this week's record-breaking run by the FT-SE 100 index to a screeching halt. It finished 19.7 down at 3,805.6.

The falls would have been greater had it not been for the takeover spotlight falling on the electricity sector. Confirmation that Southern, America's largest utility company, wants to make a bid for National Power, Britain's biggest power generator, produced a renewed flurry of speculative buying in the shares. By the close of business **National Power** had soared further 56½p to 578p, for a two-day lead of of 88p, with the partly paid adding 57p at 444p. A total of 24 million shares changed hands.

City speculators are talking of a 700p bid, valuing the company at almost £8 billion. Any such bid would be dependent on the blessing of the Government, but National Power was playing down the situation yesterday, saying it had not received any bid approach and urging shareholders to sit tight. It is currently waiting to see if it receives the go-ahead for its own bid for Southern Electric after the original offer was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The MMC has since passed on its findings to the Department of Trade and Industry. **Southern Electric** fell 33p to 852p. Southern Inc recently paid £1.1 billion for South West Electricity and earlier this week confirmed plans to sell off part of its stake. The proceeds would be used to finance a bid for National Power. **South West Water**, a further potential target of Southern, at one stage, fell 17p to 712p. It is already the target of offers from **Wessex**, up 3p at 348p, and **Severn Trent**, down 11p at 592p.

Abbey has seen signs of a pick-up in the housing market

This latest move also livened up the other power generators with **PowerGen** jumping 29p to 599p, and the partly paid 26½p to 459p. **Scottish Power** also rose 6p to 374p, and **Scottish Hydro** 8p to 350p.

Speculative buying was good for **Ladbroke**, up 3p at 191p. Kleinwort Benson, the broker, was reported to be picking up stock for a big buyer in late trading.

Whitbread advanced 10p to 734p as BZW switched its recommendation from a hold to a buy. It also had a knock-on effect for **Bass**, up 8p at 779p, and **Allied Domecq** 3p to 503p.

Molins, unchanged at 935p, is to replace Trafalgar House as constituent of the FT-SE 250 mid-index after the takeover by Kvaerner.

There was little for shareholders of **Reed International** to cheer about as the price fell 24p to £11.86 after a gloomy trading update at the annual general meeting. Ian Irvine, chairman, said the disposal of the consumer publishing side would only have a small dilutive affect on earnings, but he said that financial prospects remained little changed.

The Abbey National says it has seen the first signs of a pick-up in the depressed housing market. But Lord Tugendhat, chairman, took the edge off the good news by telling shareholders at the annual meeting that the group had lost market share in both savings and loans. He expects mortgage lending to grow 4 per cent in 1996. **Abbey** shares lost 9p to 577p.

Any remaining hopes that Signet is poised to complete the proposed disposal of Ernest Jones and H Samuel jewelery chains were quickly dashed by James McAdam, chairman, who said the company would make an announcement in due course.

The group confirmed some time ago that it was looking for prospective buyers for the business which could raise upwards of £300 million. Pretax profits of £25 million, up from £8.1 million last time, were at the top end of forecasts. **Signet** shares firmed 1p to 30¼p.

Brokers gave a thumbs up to half-year figures from **Smiths Industries** which came in above most of their forecasts. Pre-tax profits were up from £58.2 million to £69.5 million. The shares responded with a rise of 11p to 709p supported by news of a $100 million US contract. Panmure Gordon, the broker, is looking for profits of £156 million for the full year followed by £175 million in 1997.

Boosey & Hawkes, the musical instruments manufacturer, continued to respond to better than expected trading news with a jump of 25p to 723p. On Tuesday, the group reported a jump in full-year pre-tax profits from £5.08 million to £6.16 million.

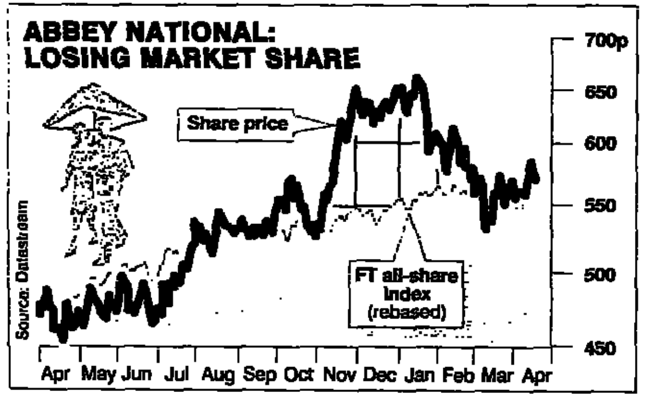
An encouraging statement on current trading at its annual meeting lifted **Dixons Motor** 40p to 257p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** A muted response to the latest economic numbers and weaker German bunds left bond prices in London nursing sizeable losses on the day.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt tumbled £⅝ to £105⁹⁄₃₂. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £½ lower at £101¾, while at the longer end, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost £²¹⁄₃₂ at £96¹⁄₁₆.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares on Wall Street were down in morning trading, deepening their losses after comments by IBM sent a shiver through the Dow industrials. IBM, which initially rallied on better than forecast first-quarter earnings, said it expected a setback from currency translations in light of the stronger dollar. The Dow Jones industrial average at midday was down 36.13 points at 5,583.89.

Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, expects BT and Cable and Wireless to unveil details of their proposed merger sooner rather than later. It remains a bull of both companies but believes there is still plenty to go for in C&W where the next stop for the shares could be 575p.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 5583.89 (-36.13)
S&P Composite .... 641.95 (-3.05)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 21816.22 (-51.95)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 10962.69 (-70.29)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index .... 545.68 (-2.55)

Sydney:
AO .... 2266.8 (+7.0)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 2524.18 (-14.20)

Singapore:
Straits .... 2403.85 (+2.45)

Brussels:
General .... 9053.97 (+12.34)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 2075.12 (-22.22)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 779.30 (+0.30)

London:
FT 30 .... 2824.4 (-20.9)
FT 100 .... 3805.6 (-19.7)
FT-SE Mid 250 .... 4464.1 (+5.6)
FT-SE-A 350 .... 1918.5 (-7.2)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100 .... 1648.84 (-3.23)
FT A All-Share .... 1897.37 (-5.81)
FT Non Financials .... 2026.03 (-4.09)
FT Fixed Interest .... 111.83 (-0.13)
FT Govt Secs .... 92.19 (-0.23)
Bargains 43342
SEAQ Volume 927.3m
USM (Datastrm) .... 210.53 (+1.03)
US$ .... 1.5085 (+0.0003)
German Mark .... 2.2738 (-0.0028)
Exchange Index .... 83.6 (Same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU ....
£:SDR 1.0439
RPI .... 150.9 Feb (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX .... 150.2 Feb (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust Emerg Asia	705	+ 7
Advent VCT	95	...
British Smaller Co's	95	...
Cambridge Wtr NV	245	+ 5
Cap for Co's VCT (100)	95	...
Cardcast (85)	86	+ 3
Cliveden (73)	81	+ 1
Close Brothers VCT	95	...
Dicom Group (270)	320	...
Easynet Group (100)	105	...
FI Group (235)	302	+ 2
Gartmore VCT	96	...
Guinness Flight VCT	95	...
Hill Sml UK Emg Cos	96	...
Hurlingham Props	80	...
ILP Group (75)	88	...
Orange (205)	235½	+ 3
Pacific Horizon Wrts	17	...
Penine AIM VCT	95	...
Quester VCT	95	...
Raphael Zorn (32)	35	...
Rebus	100	+ 2
Scottish Asian C	100½	- ½
Silver Shield Group (3)	3¾	...
Taverners Trust Uts	513	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Barratt Dev n/p (200)	70	+ 2
Bemrose n/p (325)	59	...
Eldos Cv 96/01 n/p	45	- 13
Estates & Gen n/p (60)	8	...
Flare n/p (150)	8	+ 1
Guinness Peat n/p (30)	6½	+ ½
Tepnel Life n/p (40)	10	+ 2
VDC n/p (675)	70	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Cantab Pharms .... 655p (+107p)
N Brown .... 328p (+24p)
Austin Reed .... 240p (-16p)
Memory Comp .... 160p (+10p)
Acorn Comp .... 218p (+10p)

FALLS:
Lucas .... 204p (-11p)
Danka Bus Systems .... 745p (-23p)
REXAM .... 393p (-12p)
WH Smith .... 474p (-13p)
Next .... 563p (-15p)
Standard Chart .... 617p (-16p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

The cash cow market

A JUBILANT equity market was slapped down yesterday by good employment figures and Kenneth Clarke. The Chancellor would dearly love to cut lending rates in time to create a "feel-good" momentum that might last until an autumn election. However, the justification for doing so will depend on signs of weak economic growth. The first-quarter GDP figure is due this month but yesterday's indicators give little reason for the Chancellor to meddle and few reasons for investors to chase the market further.

Tuesday's surge in the FT-SE 100 above 3,800 was prompted by new Pep money working its way into equities but also by bid speculation which continues to excite FT-SE stocks. However, investors speculating where the index may end the year need to consider institutional cash flows and the likely effect of a change of government. Companies have been handing cash back to investors in the form of special dividends, buy-backs and takeovers. These have taken the overall cash yield on shares to about 7 per cent compared with a dividend yield of just over 4 per cent. However, there is little evidence of additional appetite for UK equities from institutions who are, instead, investing their money abroad in emerging markets.

A change of government could also alter the mood of corporate treasurers. A purist concern to return surpluses to shareholders might change if the tax regime begins to subsidise investment while takeovers will certainly be off the agenda. In such a world, the current market, driven by expectations of yet another shower of cash, looks a little pricey.

Smiths Inds.

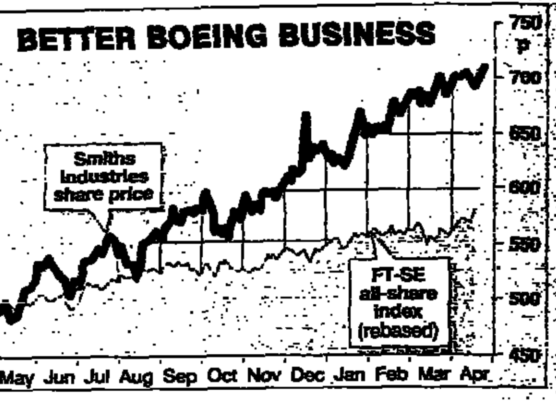
SMITHS INDUSTRIES could stake a claim to be the least-known company in the FT-SE 100 index, but it is also one of the best regarded.

With few headline-catching deals or cash calls on shareholders, Sir Roger Hurn has built Smiths into a £2.1 billion business. Despite a slump in the aerospace industry, he has consistently reported results reassuringly ahead of City expectations.

The decline in aerospace pushed Smiths to build up its medical and industrial businesses. These now make bigger contributions to profits than the aerospace arm. Medical systems in particular offer much better margins — 21 per cent versus 10 per cent.

Smiths seems to be suffering minimal damage from the recent strike at Boeing, its biggest customer, although this is delaying deliveries. Boeing is stepping up its aircraft production next year. Smiths supplies about $300,000 of equipment to each 737 jet, and about $600,000 worth for the wide-bodied 777s. Individually, these are small sums but they add up to a useful boost to profits. More aerospace business is likely — including work on the Eurofighter project.

Smiths is on course to deliver profits of £165 million this financial year and £185 million in 1997. After yesterday's rise the shares are now on a price earnings multiple of about 20. Good as the record is, that leaves little room for disappointment.



Prudential

PUBLIC cynicism towards financial products is giving way to both greed and anxiety about penury in old age. The change in sentiment is good news for life insurers and Prudential Corporation's new business figures showed evidence that some investment products have shaken off their dubious image.

Although the Pru's regular premium endowment policies and with-profit pensions plans are still struggling to find takers, single premium products like the Prudence Bond enjoyed a big boost in the first quarter.

Special factors did help: the Pru has been heavily promoting its lump sum investment products and the insurer will have done a brisk business from Tessa account holders seeking better returns as their deposits matured last month. The Pru's bond has done well as tax changes killed off competitors but there are more profound reasons why life insurers are expecting a better year.

A head of steam is building up in the savings market due to low interest rates and last year's excellent performance by equity markets. The prospect of bigger gains from shares is enough to mitigate the lingering suspicion of financial products and entice money away from savings accounts. Meanwhile, public anxiety is growing over long-term financial security in a world without state pensions. For life insurers, the next task is to lure consumers into long-term saving plans; a judicious mixture of fear and greed could just do the trick.

Planet Hollywood

PLANET Hollywood's public share offer bears all the features of the launch of one of the blockbuster movies from which the company draws inspiration. The frenzied excitement, the panoply of stars, and the huge budgets have sent expectations and the offer price soaring.

With investors asked to pay 98 times last years earnings for shares, the company will be valued at $1.9 billion, more than 10 times the cost of Kevin Costner's *Waterworld*. Selling burgers — even in Britain today — is easier than selling movies, one reason why Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone have put some spare cash in the venture.

Planet Hollywood is just coming into the black after huge set-up costs — some $6 million per restaurant with the $2 million launch costs written off in the first year. Profits are now coming through but investors should expect Planet Hollwood to enjoy a brief run. Competition is growing fast and themed restaurants have short lives — some reckon five years — before expensive refurbishment is needed. This is no *Casablanca*.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

May	996-995	Jul	1046-1041
Jul	1020-1019	Sep	unq
Sep	1042-1041	Dec	...
Dec	1012-1011	Mar	...
Mar	1018-1015		
May	1033-1030		Volume: 3880

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1874-1873	Jan	1812-1805
Jul	1852-1851	Mar	1793-1792
Sep	1848-1845	May	1775-1760
Nov	1832-1830		Volume: 4543

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	328.0-27.0
Spot: 394.0		May	328.0-27.0
Aug	375.5-75.0	Aug	330.0-26.0
Oct	345.5-45.0	Oct	318.0-13.0
Dec	337.0-36.0		Volume: 2395

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 16

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	107.20	178.69	100.76
(+/-)	-5.07	-10.30	+1.78
Eng/Wales:	106.25	179.23	100.59
(+/-)	-4.51	-11.19	+1.95
(%)	-14.0	+6.0	-22.0
Scotland:	117.84	167.98	101.34
(+/-)	-22.60	-9.12	-0.94
(%)	+26.0	-55.0	-5.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.95	-1.25
Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.80	-0.70
Brent 15 day (Jul)	17.85	-0.55
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	20.90	-0.60
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	19.60	-0.40

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 222 (-5)	O: 224 (-5)
Gasoil EEC	191 (-4)	194 (-4)
Non EEC 1H My	178 (-7)	181 (-7)
Non EEC 1H Jn	167 (-7)	169 (-8)
3.5 Fuel Oil	108 (-1)	110 (-1)
Naphtha	197 (-6)	199 (-6)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

May	171.50-72.00	Aug	157.75-80.00
Jun	163.50-63.75	Sep	157.50-58.00
Jul	159.50-59.75		Vol: 18914

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	18.85-18.87	Sep	16.95 BID
Jul	17.87 BID	Oct	n/a
Aug	17.30 BID		Vol: 44707

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	127.25	May	113.15
Jul	130.05	Sep	109.25
Sep	114.80	Nov	110.50
Nov	116.75	Jan	112.50
Jan	118.75	Mar	114.10
Volume: 934		Volume: 160	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
May	165.0	167.5
Jun	unq	225.0
Nov		105.0
		Volume: 74

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)
May 99.50-100.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 96	1456	1455	1453
May 96	1378	1370	1370
Jun 96	1315	1305	1310
Jul 96	1285	1280	1280

Vol: 294 lots Open interest: 4671
Index 1447 (Same)

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2581.0-2583.0	2561.0-2562.5	2058375
Lead ($/tonne)	815.50-816.50	807.00-808.00	245800
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1044.0-1045.0	1070.5-1071.0	716975
Tin ($/tonne)	6540.0-6550.0	6545.0-6550.0	18610
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1572.0-1572.5	1607.0-1607.5	2272675
Nickel ($/tonne)	8115.0-8125.0	8210.0-8220.0	73048

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Dom	500	3½	19½	32	0	20	28½
(*503½)	550	0	4½	14½	46½	60	63
Argyll	300	29	34	37½	0	5½	9½
(*329)	330	0	13½	20	1	18½	22½
ASDA	110	1	8	9½	0	5	7½
(*111)	120	0	3½	5½	9	11	13
Boots	600	30½	42	50½	0	11½	18
(*630½)	650	0	14	25½	19½	37½	44
Br Airways	500	37	45½	52½	0	8	14
(*537)	550	0	19½	25	13	31½	36½
BP	550	36½	45	54	0	6	13
(*586½)	600	0	18	26½	13½	28	34
Br Steel	180	16	20	21½	0	5	7½
(*196)	200	0	7½	10½	4	15	18
C & W	500	22	40	48	0	18½	23
(*522)	550	0	19	26	28	44	51
CU	550	34	40½	56½	0	8½	16½
(*584)	600	0	20	28½	16	28½	40½
ICI	900	28½	58½	72	0	17½	33
(*928½)	950	0	30	46	21½	39½	57
Kingfishr	550	35	50½	64½	0	9	16
(*585)	600	0	20½	35½	15	30	37½
Land Sec	650	7½	21½	28	0	23½	26½
(*657½)	700	0	4	9½	42½	61	62½
M & S	420	32	36½	43	0	4	9
(*452)	460	0	11½	20	8	21½	26½
Nat West	600	37½	56	66½	0	9½	20
(*637½)	650	0	26	38½	12½	30	42
Sainsbury	360	14	20½	27½	0	10	13½
(*374)	390	0	6½	13½	16	28	31
Shell	850	27½	49	61	0	11½	19
(*877½)	900	0	10½	32	22½	32½	42
Smkl Bch	638	18½	39½	54½	0	16	25
(*656½)	687	0	18	31½	30½	43	51
Storehse	330	29	36	42½	0	5	9½
(*359)	360	0	16	24½	1	16½	21½
Trafalgar	50	0½	1	1	0	0	0
(*50½)	60	0	0	0	9½	9½	9½
Unilever	1200	6	44½	70½	0	22½	30
(*1206)	1250	0	20½	44½	44	51½	57½
Zeneca	1300	49	98	123½	0	28	46
(*1349)	1350	0	67	96½	1	46	68
	Series	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Grnd Met	420	23½	34½	43½	2½	13	17
(*439½)	460	4	14	24½	23	34	37½
Ladbroke	180	13½	23	27	5	10½	13½
(*188½)	200	5½	13½	18	15	21	24
Utd Bisc	220	19½	27½	31	1	5	9
(*236½)	240	7	16	19½	8	13	17½

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	500	46½	53	59½	0	4	8
(*546½)	550	0	18	27½	3½	21½	27
Thames W	550	25½	35½	42½	0	15	19½
(*575½)	600	0	10½	18	24½	46	49
	Series	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
BAT Ind	500	20	37½	44½	8½	24	28½
(*509½)	550	3	16	23½	41½	54½	58
BTR	300	21	28½	32½	0½	4	8½
(*319)	330	3	10	15½	12½	17	22½
Br Aero	850	47½	75½	90	6½	23	33½
(*887)	900	17	46½	63	27	44½	56
Br Telcm	360	17	26½	31	4	16½	20½
(*372)	390	4	13	16½	20½	34	38
Cadbury	500	10	35½	44	7½	18	24
(*508½)	550	2½	14	22	42	47	52
Guinness	460	15	30	37	5½	15½	20½
(*466)	500	1½	12½	18½	34	38	42½
GEC	360	12	20½	26	5½	16½	21
(*365)	390	1½	8	13	25½	36	39
Hanson	180	14	17	19½	0½	4	7½
(*192½)	200	2	6½	10	9	14	18
LASMO	180	15½	23½	27½	4	6½	9
(*191)	200	5½	13	17½	12	15½	18½
Lucas	200	6½	15½	19	5½	10	14½
(*204)	220	1½	7	10	19	22	26
Pilkingtn	210	10	16½	—	3	9½	—
(*218)	220	2	7½	—	14	20½	—
Prudential	420	37	50½	57	1½	7	13½
(*454)	460	9½	26	33½	14½	22½	30
Redland	390	24½	31	38	6	19½	21
(*411½)	420	6	16½	24	24	32	37
R-Royce	220	10	18½	22	4	10½	13½
(*228½)	240	2	9½	14	16½	21½	24½
Tesco	280	9	17½	22½	6½	13	18
(*287)	300	2	9	14	21½	25	29½
Vodafone	260	9½	19½	26½	7½	16½	20½
(*261½)	280	2½	11	17½	20½	28	31½
Williams	330	12½	16	19½	7	12	17
(*340)	360	0½	4½	8	30	32	36

FT-SE INDEX (*3808½)

	3700	3750	3800	3850	3900	3950
Calls						
Apr	108½	58½	15	1	1	1
May	120½	88	56½	32	15	5½
Jun	148	113	82	58	38	23
Jul	170	138	107½	83½	61	45½
Dec	250	—	189½	—	143½	—
Puts						
Apr	1	1½	10½	51	101	151
May	16½	28	40½	72½	107½	151
Jun	36	51	70	95½	126½	163
Jul	53	71	93½	116½	144½	179½
Dec	107½	—	149½	—	198½	—

	Series	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Calls Dec	Puts Jun	Puts Sep	Puts Dec
Abby Nat	550	41½	51½	62½	8	18	24
(*577)	600	14½	26	37½	31½	43½	48
Amstrad	180	21	28½	33	4	7½	9½
(*195½)	200	9½	17½	23	12	16	18½
Barclays	750	27	41½	55	22½	35½	41
(*750)	800	9	21	33½	54½	66	70½
Blue Circ	360	15½	25½	31½	14	20½	24½
(*360)	390	5	13	19	33½	38	42
Br Gas	240	6½	11	15½	13½	15½	22½
(*240)	260	1½	5	8½	29½	30½	35
Dixons	500	22	33	44½	18	29	32
(*500)	550	5	14	23½	52	60	62½
Forte	343	32½	37	—	0	1	—
(*375)	373	9½	15	—	4½	8	—
Tarmac	120	10½	15½	18	4½	7	10
(*125)	130	5½	10½	13	9½	12	15
Hillsdwn	180	6	9	11½	9½	12½	14½
(*182)	200	1	3½	5	26½	27½	28½
Lonrho	180	21	24	28½	1½	4½	6
(*197½)	200	8	11½	17	8½	12	14½
Sears	90	8	10½	12	1½	3½	5
(*97½)	100	2	5½	7	7	9	10
Thorn	1700	114½	144½	171	31½	60	71
(*1770½)	1800	59	92	119	73½	106	118
Tomkins	260	14½	19½	24	5½	12	14½
(*266½)	280	5	9½	14½	16½	23½	25½
Lloyds TSB	322	21	—	—	7½	—	—
(*331½)	352	7½	—	—	24	—	—
	Series	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
Glaxo W	750	46½	68	83½	0	10½	25
(*796½)	800	0	37	53½	3½	29	47
HSBC	1000	6	58½	80	0	41½	59½
(*1006)	1050	0	34½	57	44	67½	96½
Reuter	750	3½	44	57	0	27	39
(*753½)	800	0	23½	34½	46½	59½	67
	Series	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
Royal Ins	330	29	39½	46	0	6	12
(*359)	360	0	21½	28½	1	17	25
	Series	**Jun**			**Jun**		
Fisons	260	5	—	—	0½	—	—
(*265)	280	0½	—	—	18½	—	—
	Series	**May**			**May**		
Eastrn Gp	950	29½	—	—	0½	—	—
(*975)	1000	0½	—	—	25	—	—
	Series	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**
Natl Pwr	550	44½	48	56	23	28	29½
(*572)	600	24	26	32½	47	56	56½
Scot Pwr	360	23	30	33	6	13½	15½
(*372)	390	8½	15	18½	20½	30	32

April 17, 1996 Tot: 57931 Call: 34205 Put: 23726 FT-SE Call: 5711 Put: 10945
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 61924	Jun 96	3838.0	3838.0	3811.0	3814.0	11055
	Sep 96	3831.0	3834.0	3830.0	3834.0	1250
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3594	Jun 96				4475.0	0
	Sep 96					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 342838	Jun 96	94.00	94.01	93.92	93.94	19214
	Sep 96	93.86	93.86	93.71	93.73	29266
	Dec 96	93.48	93.48	93.28	93.32	41675
Three Month Euro Yen Previous open interest: 0	Jun 96				99.18	0
	Sep 96	98.88	98.89	98.88	98.89	150
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1069544	Jun 96	96.78	96.78	96.76	96.76	19439
	Sep 96	96.67	96.67	96.64	96.64	23777
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 124164	Jun 96	105-27	105-28	105-06	105-09	54580
	Sep 96				104-09	0
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 96	118.00	118.14	117.97	118.08	1786
	Sep 96	116.95	117.04	116.95	117.02	25
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 200819	Jun 96	96.53	96.58	96.20	96.23	123922
	Sep 96	95.61	95.61	95.42	95.35	232
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 20646	Jun 96	95.61	95.61	95.57	95.57	446
	Sep 96	95.56	95.56	95.53	95.53	341
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 53517	Jun 96	98.18	98.18	98.16	98.17	1192
	Sep 96	98.07	98.07	98.05	98.06	1524
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 50494	Jun 96	110.95	110.95	109.92	110.12	51698
	Sep 96	110.13	110.13	109.90	109.54	5

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6½ Low 6 Week fixed: 5⅞
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5¾ ; 3 mth 5⅞ . Sell: 2 mth 5⅝ ; 3 mth: 5¾ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅞-5¾	5¾-5⅝	5¾-5⅝	5¾-5⅝	
Sterling Money Rates:	6-5⅞	6-5⅞	6-5⅞	6⅛-6	6⅜-6¼
Interbank:	6-5⅞	6-5⅞	6-5⅞	6⅛-6⅛	6¼-6⅛

Overnight: open 6 , close 6½ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	5⅞	n/a	5⅞	6⅛	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	5⅞-5¾	5⅞-5¾	5⅞-5¾	6⅛-5⅞	6⅛-6
Dollar CDs:	5.34	n/a	5.37	5.44	5.68
Building Society CDs:	6-5⅞	6-5⅞	6-5⅞	6⅛-6	6¼-6⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-4⅞	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5⅜-5¼	5-4
Deutschemark:	3½-3¼	3½-3⅜	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3½-2½
French Franc:	3⅞-3¾	4-3⅞	4-3⅞	4⅛-4	4½-3½
Swiss Franc:	2-1¾	1⅞-1¾	1⅞-1¾	1⅞-1¾	2-1
Yen:	½-⅜	½-⅜	⅝-½	¾-⅝	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $390.70-391.00 **Close:** $391.00-391.50 **High:** $391.00-391.50
Low: $390.05-390.55 **AM:** $391.40 **PM:** $391.10

Krugerrand: $391.00-394.00 (£258.50-260.50)

Platinum: $401.50 (£266.35) **Silver:** $5.34 (£3.535) **Palladium:** $135.15 (£89.65)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 17	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5404-2.5423	2.5404-2.5420	⅝-½pr	1⅝-1½pr
Brussels	46.663-46.746	46.663-46.739	12-9pr	33-28pr
Copenhagen	8.7692-8.7861	8.7724-8.7799	1⅝-1¼pr	5⅛-4⅝pr
Dublin	0.9656-0.9678	0.9656-0.9671	9-6pr	23-18pr
Frankfurt	2.2729-2.2754	2.2729-2.2744	⅝-½pr	1⅝-1½pr
Lisbon	233.198-233.505	233.198-233.411	⅛-⅝ds	⅛-1⅛ds
Madrid	189.550-189.875	189.550-189.669	26-35ds	72-89ds
Milan	2374.00-2377.71	2375.41-2377.71	7-9ds	20-23ds
Montreal	2.0448-2.0466	2.0448-2.0462	0.19-0.11pr	0.36-0.25pr
New York	1.5071-1.5087	1.5082-1.5087	0.07-0.05pr	0.19-0.16pr
Oslo	9.8045-9.8221	9.8045-9.8118	1⅛-⅞pr	3⅛-2⅝pr
Paris	7.7220-7.7261	7.7220-7.7261	1⅝-1⅜pr	3⅞-3⅜pr
Stockholm	10.170-10.204	10.177-10.194	⅝-⅜pr	⅝-⅜pr
Tokyo	163.217-163.395	163.217-163.316	⅞-⅝pr	2⅝-2⅜pr
Vienna	15.9822-15.2005	15.9822-15.9940	⅝-⅜pr	1⅝-⅞pr
Zurich	1.8478-1.8507	1.8478-1.8500	⅝-½pr	1⅝-1⅜pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia 1.2716-1.2724
Austria 10.59-10.60
Belgium (Com) 30.96-30.97
Canada 1.3569-1.3574
Denmark 5.8190-5.8220
France 5.1215-5.1225
Germany 1.5069-1.5075
Hong Kong 7.7355-7.7360
Ireland 1.5591-1.5611
Italy 1573.50-1575.00
Japan 108.15-108.25
Malaysia 2.4945-2.4955
Netherlands 1.6848-1.6854
Norway 6.5025-6.5055
Portugal 154.69-154.79
Singapore 1.4091-1.4098
Spain 125.70-125.80
Sweden 6.7492-6.7562
Switzerland 1.2272-1.2282

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso* 1.5067-1.5093
Australia dollar 1.9170-1.9195
Bahrain dinar 0.5620-0.5740
Brazil real* 1.4735-1.4776
China yuan .... 12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound 0.7000-0.7100
Finland markka 7.1025-7.2185
Greece drachma 362.0-369.0
Hong Kong dollar 11.6613-11.6682
India rupee 51.06-52.02
Indonesia rupiah .... n/a
Kuwait dinar KD 0.4470-0.4570
Malaysia ringgit 3.7600-3.7640
New Zealand dollar 2.2095-2.2142
Pakistan rupee .... 52.13 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal 5.4250-5.5000
Singapore dollar 2.1239-2.1264
S Africa rand (com) 6.2940-6.3960
U A E dirham 5.4725-5.5965
Barclays Bank GTS • Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3I	344	Land Secs	1,500
ASDA Gp	10,000	Legal & Gn	443
Abbey Ntl	3,200	Lloyds TSB	7,600
Allied Dom	3,900	Marks Spr	11,000
Argos	880	NatWst Bk	4,200
Argyll Gp	2,700	Nat Grid	10,000
AB Foods	413	Nat Power	25,000
BAA	2,600	P & O	2,200
BAT Inds	8,800	Pearson	639
BOC	440	Pilkington	1,400
BP	11,000	PowerGen	6,300
BSkyB	2,100	Prudential	5,900
BTR	3,900	REXAM	1,700
BT	4,500	RMC	177
Bk of Scot	2,000	RTZ	2,600
Barclays	3,400	Rank Org	3,100
Bass	1,400	Reckitt Col	770
Blue Circle	1,000	Redland	1,100
Boots	1,400	Reed Intl	1,500
BAe	1,300	Rentokil	2,500
BA	1,100	Reuters	2,900
Brit Gas	11,000	Rolls Royce	4,000
Brit Steel	3,900	Royal Ins	5,100
Burmah Cstl	397	Ryl Bk Scot	1,500
Burton	2,900	Sainsbury	2,000
Cable Wire	6,200	Schroders	45
Cadbury	2,100	Scot & New	1,400
Carlton Cms	592	Scot Power	3,600
Cm Union	1,500	Svrn Trent	809
Cookson	3,800	Shell Trans	6,100
Courtaulds	825	Siebe	793
Dixons	3,800	SmKl Bch	7,000
Enterpr Oil	3,700	Smith Nph	16,000
For & Col IT	866	Smiths Inds	1,100
GKN	2,100	Sthern Elec	8,400
GRE	887	Std Chard	1,300
GUS	1,400	Sun Allnce	3,200
Gen Acc	835	TI Gp	1,200
Gen Elec	4,600	Tate & Lyle	375
Glaxo Well	8,100	Tesco	7,300
Granada	920	Thames W	4,300
Grand Met	1,900	Thrn EMI	661
Greenalls	732	Tomkins	3,700
Guinness	3,300	Unilever	2,800
HSBC	1,200	United Utls	4,300
Hanson	18,000	Vodafone	2,900
ICI	1,300	Whitbread	2,500
Kingfisher	2,200	Wlms Hld	6,400
LASMO	2,500	Wolseley	225
Ladbroke	6,200	Zeneca	800

WALL STREET

	Apr 17 midday	Apr 16 close
AMP Inc	42¾	42½
AMR Corp	91¼	91½
ASA	45½	45½
AT & T	61½	62
Abbott Labs	40¾	41
Advanced Micro	16½	17¼
Aetna Life	71½	72¼
Ahmanson (HF)	23	23⅝
Air Prod & Chem	58	58½
AirTouch Comm	28	28½
Alberto-Culver B	38½	38½
Albertson's	37½	37½
Alcan Aluminm	33½	33½
Alco Standard	54½	53½
Allied Signal	57½	57½
Alum Co of Am	64	64½
Amax Gold Inc	6¼	6½
Amerada Hess	57½	58½
Amer Brands	43½	42½
Amer El Power	40½	40½
Amer Express	47½	47½
Amer Genl Corp	34½	34
Amer Home Pr	106½	107½
Amer Intl	91½	92½
Amer Stores	33½	33½
Amer Standard	28	28
Ameritech	57	56½
Amoco	72½	73½
Anheuser-Busch	65½	65½
Apple Computer	25½	25½
Archer Daniels	18½	18½
Armco	5½	6
Armstrng Wrld	56½	56½
Asarco	34½	35½
Ashland Oil	40½	40½
Atl Richfield	118	120½
Auto Data Pro	38½	39
Avery Dennison	55½	55½
Avon Products	88½	88½
Baker Hughes	29½	29½
Baltim Gas & El	26½	26½
Banc One	33½	34½
BankAmerica	73½	74½
Bank of NY	46½	47
Bankers Tr NY	69	68½
Barnett Banks	61	61½
Bausch & Lomb	38½	38½
Baxter Intl	43½	43½
Becton Dicknsn	79½	79½
Bell Atlantic	60½	60½
Bell Industries	21½	22
BellSouth	37½	37
Black & Decker	37½	36½
Block (H&R)	36½	36½
Boeing	80½	80½
Boise Cascade	45	46
Bristol Myrs Sq	81½	81½
Browning Ferris	30½	30½
Brunswick	22½	22½
Burlington Nthn	81½	81½
CMS Energy Corp	29	29½
CNA Financial	97	98
CPC Intl	69½	67½
CSX	46½	47½
Campbell Soup	60	59½
Can Pacific	20½	20½
Carolina Pwr	35½	35½
Caterpillar	67½	70½
Central & SW	27½	27½
Champion Intl	49	49½
Chase Manhat	67½	69
Chevron Corp	56½	56½
Chrysler	63	62½
Chubb Corp	91½	90½
Cigna Corp	103½	103
Citicorp	76½	77
Clorox	80½	80½
Coastal Corp	39	39½
Coca Cola	79½	81½
Colgate-Palmolive	76	77
Columbia Gas	47½	48½
ColumbiaHCA	53	53½
Compaq Comp	40½	40½
Comp Ass Intl	69½	71½
Conagra	39½	39½
Conrail	70	70½
Cons Edison	29½	29½
Cons Nat Gas	45½	45½
Cooper Inds	39½	39½
Corestates	39½	39½
Corning Inc	34½	34
Crown Cork	44½	44½
Dana Corp	33½	33
Dayton Hudson	93½	93½
Deere	41½	42½
Delta Air Lines	82	81½
Deluxe Corp	31	30½
Digital Equip	52½	53½
Dillard Dept St	36½	37
Disney (Walt)	62½	62½
Dominion Res	37½	38½
Donelley (RR)	36½	36½
Dover Corp	47½	48½
Dow Chemical	88½	89½
Dow Jones	36½	36½
Dresser	31	31½
Duke Power	48½	48½
Dun & Brdstreet	59½	60½
Du Pont	83½	82½
Eastman Chem	67½	67½

	Apr 17 midday	Apr 16 close
Eastman Kodak	72½	73
Eaton Corp	60½	61
Edison Intl	15½	15½
Emerson Elec	78½	79½
Engelhard Corp	22½	23
Enron Corp	38	38½
Entergy	26½	26½
Ethyl Corp	10½	10½
Exxon	82½	83½
FMC Corp	69	70½
FPL Group	42½	42½
Federal Express	74½	75½
Fed Nat Mtge	30	30½
First Bk Sys	59½	59½
First Union Rlty	7½	7½
Fleet Fin Grp	42½	42½
Fluor Corp	65½	66½
Ford Motor	36½	35½
GTE Corp	42½	43
Gannett	65½	66
Gap Inc Del	29½	29
Gen Dynamics	59	59
Gen Electric	78½	77½
Gen Mills	54½	54½
Gen Motors	57½	57½
Gen Reinsurance	143½	143½
Gen Signal	36½	36½
Genuine Parts	44½	44½
Georgia Pac	73½	74½
Gillette	49	49½
Glaxo Welc ADR	24	24
Goodrich (BF)	40½	40½
Goodyear Tire	50½	50½
Grace (W&R)	79½	80½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	34	33½
Great Wstn Fin	22½	23½
Halliburton	56½	56½
Harcourt General	43½	44
Heinz (HJ)	33	32½
Hercules	61½	62½
Hershey Foods	73	73½
Hewlett Packard	98½	99½
Hilton Hotels	103½	102½
Home Depot	46½	46½
Homestake Mng	19½	19½
Honeywell	52½	52½
Household Intl	68½	68½
Houston Inds	21	21
Humana	24½	25
ITT Corp	59½	60½
Illinois Tool	65	63½
Inmova	25½	25½
INCO	33½	33½
Ingersoll Rand	38½	39½
Inland Steel	25½	25½
Intel Corp	64½	64½
IBM	112	115½
Intl Flav & Fr	46½	46
Intl Paper	40½	41½
James River Va	27½	27½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	90½	91½
Kellogg	70½	71½
Kerr-McGee	66½	67
Kimberly-Clark	73	73½
Kmart	9½	9½
Knight-Ridder	67½	67½
Lilly (Eli)	58½	59½
Limited Inc	18½	18½
Lincoln Nat	49	49½
Litton	42½	42½
Liz Claiborne	36	35½
Lockheed Martin	75½	75½
Louisiana Pac	23½	24½
MCI Comm	29½	29½
Marriott Intl	49	49½
Marsh & McLnn	92	92
Masco Corp	27½	28
May Dept St	50	49½
Maytag Corp	19	19
McDonalds	47½	48½
McDonnell D	88½	87½
McGraw Hill	88½	87½
Mead Corp	56	56½
Medtronic	52½	54½
Mellon Bk	53½	53½
Melville Corp	39½	38½
Merck Inc	61	60
Merrill Lynch	58½	57½
Microsoft	105½	109½
Minnesota Mine	64½	64½
Mobil Corp	115	116½
Monsanto	152½	152½
Morgan (JP)	80½	80
Motorola Inc	57½	58½
Natl Semi	14½	14½
Natl Service Ind	37½	37½
Navistar Intl	10½	10½
NY Times A	31½	31½
Newmont Mng	56	56
Niag Mohawk	6½	6½
Nike B	88½	88½
NL Industries	12½	12½
Noram Energy	10½	10½
Nordstrom	45½	46
Norfolk Sthrn	82½	82½
Nthn State Pwr	47½	47½
Norwest Corp	36	36½
Nynex Corp	52½	51½
Occidental Pet	26½	25½
Ohio Edison	20½	20½

	Apr 17 midday	Apr 16 close
Oracle	31½	49½
Oryx Energy Co	16	16
Overseas Ship	18½	18½
Owens Corning	38½	38½
PHH Corp	55½	55½
PPG Industries	49½	49½
PNC Bank	29½	29½
PP&L Res	22½	22½
Paccar Inc	47½	47½
Pacificorp	20½	20½
Pac Enterprises	25½	26½
Pac Gas & Elect	22½	22½
Pac Telesis	33½	33½
Pall Corp	27	27½
Parker Hannifin	38½	37½
Peco Energy	24½	24½
Penney (JC)	49½	48½
Pennzoil	40½	40½
Pepsico	61	61½
Pfizer	68½	69
Pharm & Upjhn	37½	38
Phelps Dodge	73½	74
Philip Morris	90½	91
Phillips Pet	40	40½
Pitney Bowes	48½	48½
Polaroid	43½	43½
PriceCostco	18½	18½
Procter & Gmbl	84½	85½
Providian	45½	45½
Pub Serv E & G	26½	26½
Quaker Oats	32½	32½
Ralston Purina	62½	62½
Raychem Corp	67½	67½
Raytheon	50½	50½
Reebok Intl	28½	27½
Reynolds Metals	55½	56½
Rockwell Intl	56½	59½
Rohm & Haas	66½	68½
Royal Dutch	144½	146½
Rubbermaid	28½	29
SBC Comms	49½	48½
Safeco Corp	32	32½
St Paul's Cos	54	54
Salomon Inc	38½	38½
Sara Lee Corp	31½	31½
Schering Plough	57½	58
Schlumberger	82½	84½
Seagram	33½	33½
Sears Roebuck	53½	53½
Shell Trans	80½	81½
Sherwin Wlms	43½	43½
Skyline Corp	24	24
Snap-On-Tools	46½	46½
Southern Co	22½	23½
Sprint Corp	39½	39½
Stanley Works	55½	55½
Sun Company	29½	29½
Sun Microsys	49½	50½
Suntrust	69	68½
Supervalu	31½	32
Sysco Corp	32½	32½
TRW Inc	91½	91½
TCC Inds	2½	2½
Tandem Comp	8½	8½
Tandy Corp	49½	51½
Teledyne	36	36½
Temple Inland	48½	49½
Tenneco	55½	55½
Texaco	85½	85½
Texas Inst	53½	53½
Texas Utilities	39½	39½
Textron	87½	85½
Time Warner	40½	40½
Times-Mirror A	38½	37½
Timken	43½	44½
Torchmark	41½	41½
Toys R Us	26½	26½
Transamerica	74	74½
Travelers	61½	62
Tribune	65½	66½
Tyco Labs	36½	36½
UST Inc	30½	30½
UAL	215½	215
US Inds	21½	21½
USX Marathon	20½	20½
Unicom	27	27
Unilever NV	135½	134½
Union Camp	51½	52½
Union Carbide	48½	48½
Union Pacific	67½	67½
Unisys Corp	6½	6½
USAIR Group	18½	18½
USF&G Corp	15½	15½
US Life	28½	28½
United Tech	111½	111½
Unocal Corp	33½	33½
VF Corp	54½	54½
WMX Tech	33½	34
Wal-Mart Stores	22½	22½
Warner-Lambert	110½	111½
Wells Fargo	249½	252½
Westinghouse El	18½	19½
Weyerhaeuser	48½	48½
Whirlpool	58½	59
Whitman	23½	24½
Winn Dixie	32½	32½
Woolworth	17½	17½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	56½	56½
Xerox	130½	130½
Yellow Corp	12½	13

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

A matter of priorities

HEARTLESS Michael Hardern, the chief building society carpetbagger, is forgoing his father's wedding in Penzance today to attend the Woolwich Building Society's annual meeting. Instead of canapes with the congregation, the butler, who has served the Prince and Princess of Wales, will be running around the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre collecting members for conversion. Hardern says he's arranged to meet the newlyweds on their honeymoon in Bath on Friday, which ties in nicely with the Bristol & West's AGM that afternoon, adding "I've opened them an account with Birmingham Midshires — the next building society to be taken over."

Big spender

SUGARED words from accountant KPMG that leave a sickly taste in the mouth. When Meltis, best known as the maker of New Berry Fruits, went into receivership, recovery expert Stephen James spouted: "Meltis is clearly a famous and evocative name — I know I gave my mother boxes of New Berry Fruits on special occasions in the past."

Brolly trolley

SWAINE, Adeney, Brigg, umbrella maker to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, is adopting downmarket ideas. The Mayfair firm that supplies the Queen's riding whips, paid £4,100 for a personalised car number plate this week. Chairman John de Bruyne wanted "WHIP 1", but is happy to put "BROIIY", on the company's snail-shaped van that boasts its three Royal warrants. "Terribly naff, but it's marketing," he squawks.

"I want my nest-egg back"

JIM McADAM, chairman of Signet the jeweller, was none too happy to hear about the shenanigans on BBC's Business Breakfast yesterday morning. As Signet's results came up on TV screens, brunette presenter Sara Coburn launched into a lengthy speil about Ratners, then broke into giggles.

Back to school

IT IS back to the blackboard at Texaco, which signed a pioneering deal with City University Business School yesterday to provide extra staff tuition. Middle and senior management can do a one-day course to a postgraduate diploma in Management or a Flexible Masters degree.

Still temping

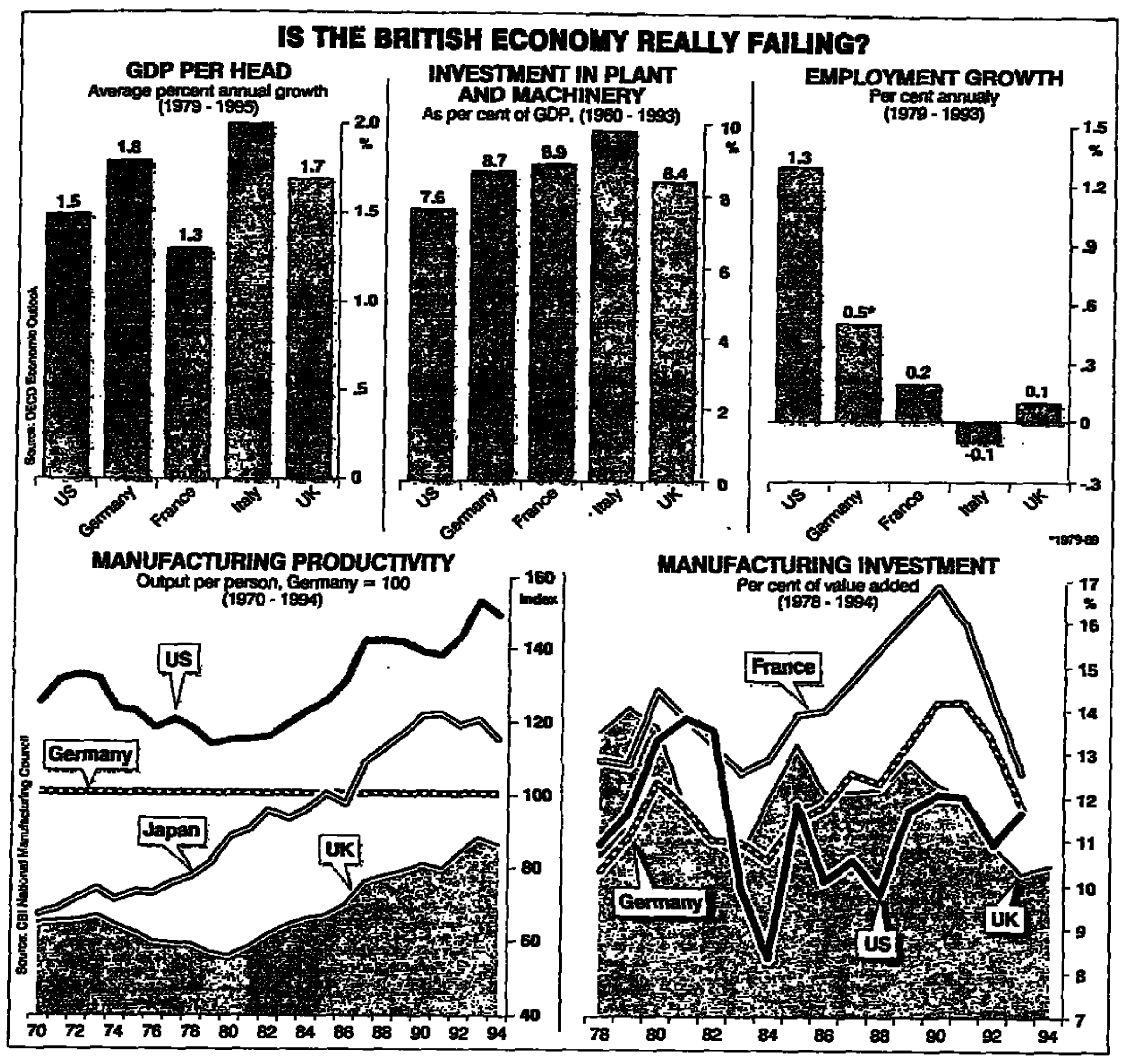
EMBARRASSMENT for Brook Street, the UK's first temporary employment agency, which celebrated its 50th anniversary yesterday. Party preparations were going to plan, after a team had spent weeks tracking down Brook Street temps from the Fifties, Sixties, Seventies, Eighties and Nineties. Mock desks were set up at Claridge's Hotel for local radio and TV crews to interview the girls who helped to make history. But where was the shoulder-padded girl of the Eighties? — at a job elsewhere, double-booked by Brook Street.

MORAG PRESTON

How Labour might try to transform the economy

It will be tempted to pursue policies designed to change the way business works, says

Anatole Kaletsky



The days are long gone when socialists believed that capitalism exists to expropriate the justly earned fruits of labour. But today's Labour Party has found new reasons to distrust British capitalism that have nothing to do with Karl Marx. It is an article of faith among Labour leaders that the poor performance of the British economy in the postwar era can be blamed largely on the culture of British business.

British businessmen and financiers are felt to have failed the nation — by not investing, by failing to train their workers, by avoiding taxes, by lining their pockets with share options, by refusing to co-operate with government, and by concentrating on stock market prices instead of taking a long-term view. These defects, no longer attributed to capitalism in general, are now blamed on capitalism's specifically British form.

The righteous indignation about a business community that has helped itself but betrayed Britain is fully expounded in Will Hutton's best-selling book, *The State We're In*. No Labour leader would publicly (or even privately) go nearly as far as Mr Hutton. But the sense of frustration, tinged with anger, about the short-sighted attitudes of British business, breaks out regularly even in the speeches of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown.

The British economy could clearly have done much better than it did in the 1980s. But there is little evidence that our underperformance was due to low investment, short-termism or the other items on Labour's charge-sheet (the charts illustrate a few of the relevant facts).

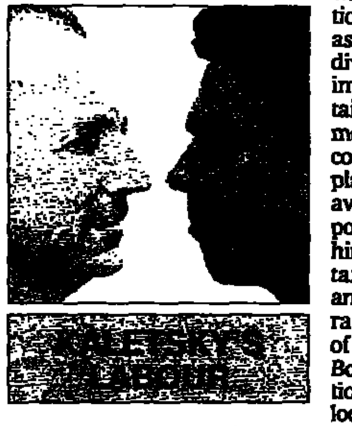
How, then could Britain's performance have been improved? I believe that the main answer lies in better demand management and exchange-rate policy; if the last recession had been avoided, Britain would have shot from near the bottom to the top of the European job-creation league. Labour, however, accepts the present day conventional wisdom; the key to faster growth is in "structural" policies on investment, competition, infrastructure, tax and financial structures, corporate governance, "long-termism" and labour market reform.

To transform the British economy's performance it will therefore be tempted to pursue a host of policies designed to change the way British business and financial markets work. One article can hardly begin to discuss the many measures that Labour spokesmen have put forward (a remarkably comprehensive summary can be found in a 70-page booklet called *Doing Business With Blair* by Burson-Marsteller Government Affairs).

Instead, I will look at the four questions chosen by Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, in his major speech on Labour two months ago to focus businessmen's concerns. What business needed to know above all else, he said, was exactly where Labour stood on four broad issues: inflation, taxes, employment laws and corporate governance. Here, then, is what can be said about Labour's plans.

On inflation, the apparent lack of clarity is not really much of a problem. Mr Brown has not announced a formal inflation target, but, in practice, he will stick to something very similar to the present 2.5 per cent as I suggested in my article on Monday on Labour's macroeconomic policy. The real uncertainty is what the Chancellor will do if unexpected pressures push the economy off the targeted course. This question applies in principle to every government — and the lack of pragmatism the Treasury has shown in following various arbitrary targets over the past 17 years does not augur well, whether Labour or Tories are in charge.

Surprisingly, however, Labour may have an easier time than expected in keeping inflation down. It would have an option that did not exist for past Labour governments and which for the Tories is effectively foreclosed. This would be to join the European single currency. I have no idea whether Labor will actually join EMU — and neither, I believe, does Mr Blair. But the very fact that this option exists on the horizon should help Labour to avoid the kind of currency crises that have so often undone Labour governments in the past. Indeed, the greater danger for Labour may well be a pound that is too strong, rather than too weak. Now what about taxes? As I explained on Monday the top rate of tax will almost certainly be 50 per cent. However, the critical question of where the new tax will bite remains unsettled — and until this is announced, Labour can have little hope of winning the business community's trust, still less its active support. The other predictable tax measure is the windfall tax on the water and electricity industries, accompanied by a drastic tightening of the regulatory regime. Again, however, it is the level of the new tax that is all important and nobody seems to have any idea about this, including Mr Brown.



Other tax reforms are even more uncertain. The good news for investors is that Mr Brown is "attracted" to reforming capital gains tax. Assets held for longer than, say, five years could be taxed at only 20 per cent.

If Mr Brown announced this change before the election he would go a long way to appeasing businessmen hit by the new 50 per cent rate. Indeed, my impression is that many would happily accept slightly higher income tax in exchange for some relief from the hated CGT. The bad news is that Labour is likely to tighten the inheritance tax regime.

Potentially, the most important reform for companies, and certainly for their accountants, will be a study on whether the corporation-tax system is biased in favour of dividends and against investment from retained earnings. Even more controversial could be Mr Brown's plan to combat tax avoidance by taking powers to "look behind the legal form of tax arrangements" and apply the spirit, rather than the letter, of the revenue laws. Both tax and constitutional lawyers can look forward to a good living from that. Turning to labour markets, the outlines of policy are again quite clear, but the crucial details are missing. Labour will implement a national minimum wage, in spite of the opposition of most economists, as well as employers. But whether the NMW means anything or nothing will depend entirely on the level at which it is set. At the Spanish level of £1.80p an hour it would be an irrelevance; at the Belgian level of £5.70p, it would be a catastrophe, and the outcome could be anything in between.

The same could be true of Labour's allegiance to the social chapter. Mr Blair has said that he has "no intention of agreeing to everything that emerges from the EU". But he knows perfectly well that parts of the social chapter are subject to majority voting — and that other EU countries are pressing to extend majority voting to issues such as social security charges and worker representation. Would a Labour government block any such extension? Mr Blair has remained resolutely silent.

These issues arouse deep passions, but how much do they matter in the great scheme of things? To judge by the relative records of job creation in Britain and Europe, there is no convincing evidence that a small dollop of German-style regulation would have much effect one way or the other.

What, finally, about the broader idea of creating a "stakeholder economy" on the German model? Although certain changes in corporate governance are likely — particularly a tightening in the takeover laws — Mr Blair has become much cooler about the "stakeholder" concept since he delivered his famous speech in Singapore.

Perhaps he has been swayed by industry arguments that it is up to elected politicians, not company directors, to establish the social constraints on profit-maximising behaviour. Perhaps he has noticed that in Germany stakeholding behaviour seems to be going out of style. Or perhaps he has simply realised that Britain and Germany are different countries, with different political traditions, different business cultures and different skills.

British businesses may be less long-termist, but perhaps they are more opportunistic. British workers may be less disciplined, but more flexible. British managers may be less thorough, but more innovative.

In a world of free trade and global competition, countries can thrive by being different and specialising in what they do well. These are the arguments that business must urgently get across to Mr Blair.

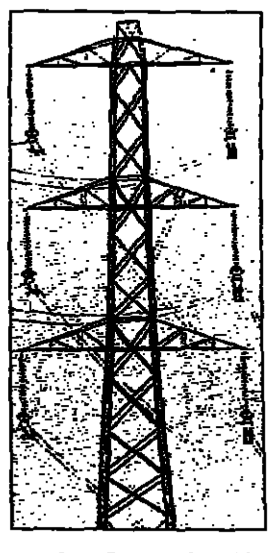
Tomorrow: Europe, politics and the "quality of life"

The balance of power lies in the hands of Lang

Christine Buckley on the ramifications of yesterday's declaration by Southern

It is now clear, looking back on the tidal wave of bids that swept through the electricity industry last year, that the show had only just begun. After yesterday's declaration from Southern, the US utility, the industry is now staring at the prospect of consolidation on a massive scale. The move of Britain's largest generator into American hands, with potentially the amalgamation of Southern Electric, the UK regional company, would create a completely new ball game in the privatised electricity industry. And it would be one which the electricity regulator would find impossible to referee properly.

The prospect must weigh heavy on the mind of Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, as he prepares his decision on bids by the two main UK generators for regional electricity companies (Recs) and thus the acceptability of vertical integration in the industry. If he ratifies vertical integration, Southern will make its move on National Power either with the intention of buying Southern Electric too or combining supply and generation via South Western Electricity, which the US company already owns. Mr Lang's time is short and the concern that the industry is fast careering away from the aims of privatisation is pressing. The industry was carved into pieces six years ago to benefit customers through competition to force down prices.



Certainly, the businesses are shadows of their former selves, with the industry having shed more than 43,000 jobs. But the proportion of those efficiencies passed to consumers rather than shareholders is slight. Profits have risen substantially while the price of electricity to the consumer, aided by a pricing control from the regulator which is widely held as lenient, has fallen modestly. Much criticism is directed at the largest generators' dominance of the electricity pool — the wholesale market for power. While fuel prices have fallen considerably since 1990, the price of electricity has been slow to follow.

The framework for transformation sculpted six years ago was shattered last year when the golden shares held by the Government in Recs lapsed. Those nominal shares restricted holdings in — and thus takeovers of — the Recs. Their expiry after five years fuelled a bid frenzy that is still resonating and is reshaping the industry beyond recognition.

Over the past year, two patterns have emerged. The first — embraced by the water companies North West and Welsh — is for multi-utilities. We now have two, with other companies adopting the principles of super utilities with various strategic tie-ups.

The second pattern is the more worrying one for regulation of the industry. Vertical integration — the merger of generating and distribution companies — began with ScottishPower's takeover of Manweb, the Rec based in the North-West. If Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) report leaks prove correct, it is about to continue, with National Power and PowerGen, the country's largest generators, being allowed to bid for Southern Electric and Midlands Electricity. The MMC is believed to have recommended the bids, with a range of provisions. The decision rests with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Of all the bids for the 12 Recs, and just three have not received approaches, the moves by the generators have caused the most consternation. It is arguable that ScottishPower, one of Scotland's two integrated companies which operate as a duopoly in their market divorced from the rest of the UK, created a precedent of vertical integration with its takeover of Manweb. But when PowerGen made its approach for Midlands and National Power moved on Southern, the fears of a reduction in competition and in the transparency of operations voiced by Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, were echoed by regional companies.

Professor Littlechild called for a referral to the MMC of the ScottishPower bid, but his concerns were ignored. Further down the line, and with the greater influence on the market of the English generators, they were heeded. Critics complained that with competition in household electricity supply only two years away, the generators, already able to command huge sway over the electricity pool price, would jump out of bounds if they had their own Recs to which to supply power and through which to reach the domestic market.

The concerns triggered by the UK generators' bids can only be augmented by an overseas company bidding for a generator. The fact that that company owns a Rec with a strong gas division and is also believed to be interested in water presents a regulator's nightmare.

The Government still has a golden share to restrict holdings in UK generators. Southern clearly does not believe that it is wedded to it and the DTI has said it would consider whether to exercise its power on individual merits.

Mr Lang may well move on to that difficult decision after the one he is about to make in the next few days.

Speculative activity disrupting building societies' business operations

From the Chairman, The Building Societies Association

Sir, The "flood of speculative money" coming in to building societies to which you refer (Mammon's stakeholders massacre the mutuals; April 15) shows no sign of ebbing. It has breached the gates of almost all societies — regardless of their size and notwithstanding the often repeated commitment to independence and mutual status by many of them.

This speculative activity has seriously disrupted the normal business operations of building societies and the services they provide to bona fide investors and borrowers. It has overstretched counter resources at many branch offices — resulting in long queues and even in some instances closed doors — and overloaded processing systems. The bizarre consequences of this activity is that the industry now has a significant proportion of "members" whose sole intention is to vote their societies out of existence, given the chance.

To stem the flood, some societies have set minimum investments for new savings accounts; others are now opening only deposit accounts. Understandable though these measures are, they reduce building society membership to the privilege of a select caste — of those able to afford it or fortunate enough to have got on to the members' register in time. This is completely at odds with the intentions of the 1986 Act and with societies' historic commitment to all savers and homeowners, whatever their means.

Building societies, like banks, are commercial organisations. With its capital advantage and low cost base, the industry can, however, continue both to outperform the banks in the savings and mortgage markets and to meet the challenges of a changed employment market and a retracting welfare state. But to do this we must have stable operating conditions and a framework which enables us to restructure as an industry. The need for re-addressing the provisions made for this by the 1986 Act grows stronger by the week.

Yours faithfully,
K. CULLEY,
Chairman, The Building Societies Association,
3 Savile Row, W1.

Liability lecture

From Professor Andrew Burrows

Sir, It was with surprise that I read Robert Bruce's account (Audit, March 28) of my lecture at Deloitte & Touche on joint and several liability. My first reaction was that I must have attended a different gathering, as neither his account of the material I presented nor of the reactions of audience members, bore much resemblance to my recollection of what was a singularly good-humoured and constructive evening.

In line with the Common Law Team of the Law Commission's recent report on the subject (published as a consultation paper by the DTI), my lecture set out numerous reasons of both principle and policy why, in our view, a replacement of joint and several liability by proportionate liability would not be appropriate. The subject is a complex one, and our report ran to 78 pages, with extensive discussion of developments in many other common law jurisdictions, the majority of which have chosen not to abandon joint and several liability.

It is a nonsense to suggest that we had no concern for whether the law is fair or not. On the contrary, this was *the* central issue addressed throughout our report. In our view, it is unfair to shift the risk of a defendant's insolvency from the other defendant(s) to the blameless plaintiff. And it is misleading to say, as is sometimes said, that "defendants can be called on to provide 100 per cent of damages even though they are only 1 per cent at fault": as a matter of causation and blameworthiness *relative to the plaintiff*, joint and several liability follows from each defendant being 100 per cent responsible for the whole of the plaintiff's loss.

Nor is Robert Bruce accurate to imply that we advocated nothing to ease the liability problems faced by accountants. For example, we provisionally suggested a reform of section 310 of the Companies Act 1985 which, allied with a clarification of the operation of the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977, would enable auditors reasonably to limit their liability by means of the contractual term (or a non-contractual disclaimer).

While we welcome constructive criticism of our arguments, Robert Bruce's comments do not, in my view, help the cause of fair and sensible law reform.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW BURROWS,
Law Commission,
Conquest House,
37/38 John Street,
Theobalds Road, WC1.

Not quite crystal clear at NatWest

From D. M. Penton

Sir, I have just received the NatWest Group's annual report, which proudly boasts that "We are very pleased that the sections marked (symbol of a crystal) on the list of contents have earned the Crystal Mark from the Plain English Campaign. This means that the wording has reached a standard of clarity that is appropriate for the intended audience".

Of the 30 items on the list of contents, the mark does not appear against the following: financial highlights, results of principal businesses, auditor's statement summary consolidated profit and loss account, summary consolidated balance sheet and notes to the summary financial statement.

Surely these are precisely the items on which the shareholder would wish to have an appropriate standard of clarity. Or is this just a subtle way of telling us to read these sections with caution?

Yours faithfully,
D. M. PENTON,
2 Ullswater Road,
Barnes, SW13.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of *The Times* can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

NATIONAL & PROVINCIAL BUILDING SOCIETY
PROPOSED TRANSFER OF BUSINESS TO ABBEY NATIONAL PLC
RESULT OF MEMBERS' VOTE

National and Provincial Building Society hereby gives Notice to all members of the Society that the result of the vote on the Saving Members' Special Resolution and on the Borrowing Members' Resolution moved at the Special General Meeting of the members of the Society held at NYNEX arena Manchester on 11 April 1996 is as follows:

Saving Members' Special Resolution

Votes in favour	843,226
Votes against	33,394
Total votes cast	876,620
Members qualified to vote	1,056,061

The votes cast in favour of the resolution represent 96.2% of the total votes cast compared with the 75% majority required, and 79.8% of the members qualified to vote, compared with the 50% required. The resolution has accordingly been passed.

Borrowing Members' Resolution

Votes in favour	233,201
Votes against	10,468
Total votes cast	243,669

The votes cast in favour of the resolution represent 95.7% of the total votes cast compared with the simple majority required. The resolution has accordingly been passed.

Issued by Authority of the Directors
R. Keith Mather
Secretary 18 April 1996

N&P
National & Provincial Building Society

Oil industry faces £64m payout and clean-up bill over Sea Empress

By Marianne Curphey

THE environmental and economic cost of the *Sea Empress* disaster at Milford Haven two months ago could be as high as £64 million. according to the oil industry.

Clean-up expenses have been estimated at between £11 million and £16 million. while the compensation paid to fishermen and the tourist industry has been set at between £34 million and £48 million by the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund.

However. Skuld. the ship's Norwegian insurers. said its early guess at the cost of the spill was about £40 million. Under maritime insurance regulations, Skuld pays for the first £8 million compensation and the IOPC picks up the next $49 million.

The IOPC said yesterday it had decided to pay 75 per cent of its $49 million fund to local people with proven claims. The remaining £12.2 million will be held back in case claims are greater than originally calculated.

The IOPC wants to avoid similar problems to those experienced after the *Braer* tanker disaster in Shetland in 1993. There was a flurry of claims just before the end of the three-year submission deadline. and Skuld, which also insured the *Braer*, gave a warning that there might not be enough money to satisfy all claims. Skuld has an £8 million compensation fund available for victims of the *Sea Empress* disaster, after which the IOPC will meet proven claims.

Mans Jacobsson. managing director of the IOPC, urged fishermen to submit claims as early as possible.

"We can make running payments of up to 75 per cent of the funds available to fishermen who have been banned from fishing in the waters around Milford Haven," he said. "Many will be unable to make a final claim because they do not know how long the ban will stay in place. but their situation will be regularly reviewed."

The IOPC, which meets again in June, says it will not know until July and August whether the oil spill has had a serious effect on the region's tourism industry.

"We have only anecdotal evidence for the tourist trade at Easter," Mr Jacobsson said. "Some reports have said most people came only on day-trips. while others in the industry say trade was better than they had expected."

Mr Thorp said payments to claimants would be assessed "on an individual basis". He added: "We will pay out up to 75 per cent of our funds. but if a claimant can demonstrate that they require more than that. we will look at the possibility of increasing the payment."

Air France incurs loss of £156m

From AFP in Paris

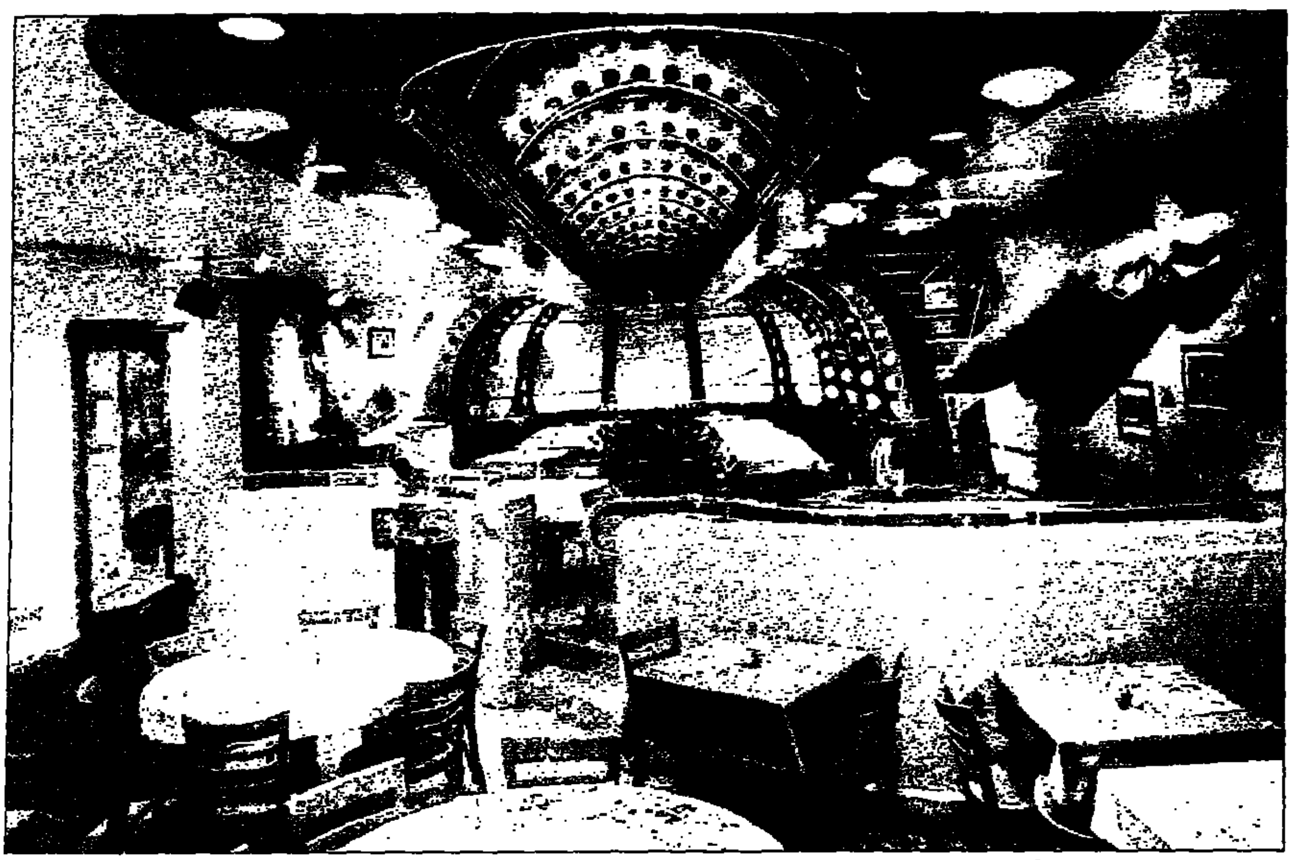
AIR FRANCE. the state-owned airline. incurred a loss before provisions of Fr1.2 billion (£156 million) in the financial year to the end of March. it emerged yesterday. Provisions are likely to total Fr630 million. The airline. which is being rescued by the State from near-bankruptcy. did not reveal net results. but said that it expected to cut the net loss in 1996-97 to Fr115 million.

Under a three-year recovery plan. the airline had set a target of reducing the net loss for last year to Fr1.2 billion. In 1994-95 it incurred a net loss of Fr3.7 billion. In the third year of recovery. in 1996-97. it planned to almost break even.

The provisional figures for last year were published in an internal newsletter but were not released to the press. Provisions will cover redundancy payments for cabin crew.

Gross operating profit last year exceeded 1994's Fr2.7 billion by about Fr1 billion. The company had set a target of Fr4 billion and the shortfall reflected the effects of strikes in France. which had cost the company Fr350 million.

In the current year. the company expected to incur a net loss of Fr115 million. which would be slightly short of its target. on total sales of Fr41.3 billion and a gross operating profit of Fr5 billion.



Hyperspace: the price of Planet Hollywood is expected to rocket when the shares are offered tomorrow

Planet Hollywood into orbit

From Richard Thomson in New York

PLANET HOLLYWOOD. the restaurant chain that boasts leading film stars among its investors. has responded to feverish investor demand by sharply lifting the price range for this week's share offering.

They will be priced today at about $18 each. $4 more than expected. The rise values the 22-restaurant chain. which includes one in London. at $1.9 billion. 95 times earnings based on its 1995 profits of $20.7 million. Last year was the first in which the company has been in the black since it was founded in 1992.

The rating reflects the near-hysteria surrounding the issue of 11.6 per cent of the shares. However. the excitement has fed on itself. with many buyers simply hoping to make a quick killing on the expected price rise when the shares start trading tomorrow before selling out.

The issue will value the stakes held by the co-founders at about $300 million each. One of the founders is Robert Earl. the British entrepreneur who founded the Hard Rock Café but was forced out in 1992. Hollywood stars. such as Arnold Schwarzenegger. Sylvester Stallone. Bruce Willis and Demi Moore. who have lent their names to the restaurant. stand to gain up to $20 million each.

Tempus. page 28

Profits fall 58% as Ford gets off to a slow start

From AP in Dearborn

PROFITS at Ford Motor Company fell 58 per cent in the first quarter on slower vehicle sales and high costs of introducing redesigned models.

America's second-largest motor manufacturer earned $653 million in the first three months of the year. compared to $1.55 billion in the same period last year.

Revenues were up 4 per cent to $36.3 billion, partly because of a strong showing by Ford's financial services operation.

On Tuesday. Chrysler Corporation reported that profits had more than doubled in the first quarter on strong sales of high-profit minivans and light trucks.

While Ford's profits were down sharply. they exceeded the 33 cents per share that Wall Street analysts expected.

Alex Trotman. Ford's chairman and chief executive. said the company's cost-cutting efforts will soon begin to pay off. He also said that redesigned models such as the Fiesta and F-Series pickup truck leave the company with a stronger product line.

Ford's total worldwide vehicle sales fell 7.5 per cent to 1.6 million units. and its US sales declined 13.5 per cent to 940.000. The company's market share in the US declined to 25.8 per cent from 26.6 per cent in the first quarter of 1995.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Receivers to Meltis make 190 redundant

RECEIVERS to Meltis. the ailing confectionery company, have announced 190 redundancies. leaving just 20 staff still employed at the Bedford factory. The latest job losses are in addition to the 100 redundancies announced before the appointment of receivers on Tuesday.

Stephen James. of KPMG. the administrative receiver, said: "I am optimistic that the brand name of Meltis will not disappear. I have already had several inquiries from interested parties. However, the company itself is unlikely to survive." The redundancies were announced after an evening of meetings with management to establish the firm's financial position. About 100 employees were already on redundancy notice prior to the appointment of receivers. Meltis. whose sales were £15 million in its last financial year, is owned by Pengkalen (UK), a South-East Asian conglomerate. The company makes the New Berry Fruits selection, ginger, orange and lemon slices. and Turkish delight.

France buys bank stake

THE French state is to take over a total holding of 21.93 per cent. owned by the Thomson electronics group, in the troubled Crédit Lyonnais bank. it was announced yesterday. The price will be about Fr3.34 billion. The transfer is expected to take place when Thomson is privatised and is likely to be completed by the end of this year. Thomson plans to make a total provision of Fr2.08 billion against a fall in the value of Credit Lyonnais shares and investment certificates. The near collapse and recapitalisation of Crédit Lyonnais have hurt the results of Thomson in the past two years.

Sharpe & Fisher deals

SHARPE & FISHER. the building supplies company based in Cheltenham. is acquiring Goodlands, a builder's merchant with branches in Wiltshire. Somerset and Devon, for £2.87 million in cash and shares. Goodlands earned operating profits of £313,000 on sales of £11.9 million last year. Net assets were £78.000 at December 31. 1995. The acquisition lifts the total number of Sharpe & Fisher branches to 32. William Otley. the chairman of Goodlands and a former finance director of UBM. the builder's merchant, will join the board of Sharpe & Fisher.

Kwik-Fit expands

KWIK-FIT has added another 45 outlets by buying three tyre and exhaust companies for £12.3 million. Autospeed Tyre & Exhaust Centres. Bristol. Ebley Tyre Services, Gloucester, and the assets and business of Manor Tyre Group. Bristol, have combined annual turnover of £20 million and earned profits of £1.2 million before tax and directors' salaries in the last financial year. The consideration was met by £7.1 million cash and £5.2 million in unsecured loan notes. The purchases lift the number of Kwik-Fit outlets to 836.

Dowty wins US order

DOWTY AEROSPACE. a division of TI Group, the specialised engineering company. has won a $10 million contract from Mesaba Airlines, the US regional carrier. to supply propeller systems for 50 Saab 340 aircraft. The order covers 30 new 340B Plus aircraft and 20 used 340As. Mesaba has an option on a further 22 aircraft. With more than 250 Saab 340 aircraft in service with Dowty propellers. the value of Dowty's contribution to the 340 programme to date is more than $70 million.

ACCOUNTANCY

Fill the gap in accounts

Robert Langford on the continuing need to cut red tape and reduce the burden on smaller companies

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Robert Langford wants smaller company account changes

Accounting standards are wasting people's time and energy. Who says so? Accountants.

"We continue to make unnecessary calls on the time of owners of small businesses." Brian Shearer. a member of the financial reporting committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. says. "We are also wasting the time of those skilled people who assist in preparing accounts. people who could much better be employed helping their clients to become more efficient."

Mr Shearer. a partner in Grant Thornton. the accountancy firm. has helped to pen an official response to proposals for a big change in the accounting demands on small companies. If the institute has its way. the majority will soon find themselves subject to a kindlier. less demanding financial reporting regime. The more complex big business has become. so the tighter and more demanding accounting standards have been drawn.

"Quite rightly. the Accounting Standards Board has focused on those aspects of financial reporting to which the public pays most attention. It's quite right that it should safeguard public confidence in the financial reporting system in this way." Mr Shearer says.

The problem is that often the issues tackled are not those likely to impinge too much on the everyday existence of the average family company. or to interest the users of its annual accounts. Hence the "big GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles) little GAAP" debate — whether standards should, as is generally the case now. apply equally across the board. no matter what the size of company.

In reality. the argument has long since been settled. Both accounting standards and Companies Act reporting and auditing rules allow some disclosure concessions based principally on size.

Last year the Government signalled its intention to take the process further when it published a discussion paper. *Accounting Simplifications*. This contained 50 possible detailed small and medium-sized company reporting simplifications. It also proposed a jump in the turnover threshold of a small company from £2.8 million to £4.2 million.

Even before this. a working party advising the ASB on criteria for exempting small companies from its standards had published tentative conclusions. These were that of 34 standards and abstracts in force. only six should apply to companies falling within the Companies Act definition of small. Reaction was 60:0 in favour. Although the institute said there was a need for change. it did not agree with the bludgeoning impact of dispensing with more than 80 per cent of small company reporting requirements.

Last December a revised paper from the advisory group. *Designed to Fit — A Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entitites*, conceded that "the piecemeal application of particular standards to small companies is a flawed approach". Its alternative was "a specific financial reporting standard to meet the sector's needs".

The FRSSE (financial reporting standard for smaller entities) had been born. In draft form it is a "one stop" document summarising the financial reporting rules and simplifying the disclosure requirements placed on small companies by accounting standards. Instead of saying. arbitrarily. that some standards would apply totally and the others not at all. the working party has adopted a more sophisticated approach.

Mr Shearer and others on his committee have told the working party that its new proposals provide a "satisfactory and workable solution" to the small companies reporting dilemma. "Our focus is on trying to improve the level of communication by cutting out a lot that is irritating to both preparers and users becuase it serves nobody," he says.

Even though the new small company rules will not change the way profits are calculated — an important point, says Mr Shearer — a FRSSE will serve another purpose. It will remind all involved that there is already a qualitative difference between small. medium-sized, large and listed company accounts. Different disclosure rules already apply to each.

"That is something that is useful to flag." Mr Shearer says. The institute is now keen for the ASB to act on the recommendations by publishing a FRSSE.

At first sight. this might not appear to fit in with the standard-setter's big company priorities. But once smaller companies have been taken out of the equation. the move would free it to harden up still further on the reporting demands it makes on larger concerns.

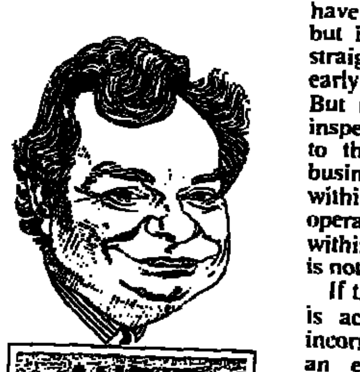
The author is head of financial reporting at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Spoiling the ship for a ha'p'orth of tar

OUR finest food scientists find their direction of work changed by it. The Chancellor of the Exchequer blames it for the overshoot in the PSBR. And pigeon-fanciers turn apoplectic at its mention. For a tax which seems so innocuous. value-added tax (VAT) has a lot to answer for.

The food angle should come as no surprise. VAT experts have argued lengthily over the years about such vital issues as whether a Jaffa cake is a biscuit or a cake. or whether hazelnuts are snacks or nuts. All this nonsense has a great effect. The key to whether something is a snack or a food and thus zero-rated can simply be whether or not it swells in its manufacture. On that basis. the humble crisp attracts VAT and a corn chip does not. This is important. Two similar products stand side-by-side on the supermarket shelves. To the public they are very similar. To the retailer there is a 17.5 per cent differential built into the margin. It is no wonder that the work of food scientists is geared not towards finding a more nutritious snack but towards finding one that can be made without attracting VAT.

But the importance of VAT is enormous. Hence the Chancellor's irritation over a shortfall in tax receipts. mostly from VAT. which means that the PSBR is larger than he would like. and certainly larger than that which might guarantee a margin for further tax cuts in a pre-election period.



AUDIT

ROBERT BRUCE

But he has only himself and previous Conservative Chancellors to blame. In 1972. Anthony Barber, then Chancellor. announced. in one of those soundbites which reverberate down the years. that "Britain will have the simplest VAT in all of Europe". He then took a decision that ensured that this could not happen. He gave the responsibility for the tax's administration to Customs and Excise rather than to the Inland Revenue.

There were good reasons for the decision. VAT was seen as the successor to the old purchase tax and that had come under the aegis of Customs. Also the Inland Revenue was in a state of tattered nerves. to put it mildly. In 1965. under the Labour Government of Harold Wilson. it had introduced two new taxes. These were capital gains tax and corporation tax and involved an enormous amount of work. At the same time. marginal tax rates were running in some cases at 98 per cent of income. By the time Barber wanted to introduce VAT in 1972. the Inland Revenue was exhausted and the last thing it wanted was to take on the introduction of a new tax that was likely to change taxation systems profoundly. Customs and Excise got the job. And it is that decision that now rebounds on the Chancellor. If VAT had been integrated into the tax mainstream from the very start. the way in which it has grown would have been very different. And it would also be policed by a tax authority which was used to the intricate business of dealing with complex tax laws and tax practitioners.

The Chancellor has also dug the hole in which he finds himself somewhat deeper by his own efforts. If my grandmother was still around. she should be laying down the law about spoiling the ship for a ha'p'orth of tar. In a succession of finance initiatives, the collection and administration of VAT has been starved of expertise at both ends of the spectrum.

At the small business end there used to be a system that provided greater help to those entering the VAT net for the first time. Small companies used to be guaranteed a visit from a VAT inspector during the first six months of their entering the VAT net. They might not have enjoyed the experience. but it did set them on the straight and narrow very early on in the VAT regime. But now budgets for VAT inspectors have been pared to the bone. Now a new business will have a visit within the first three years of operation, if it is lucky, within the first six years. if it is not.

If the way that a business is accounting for VAT is incorrect then, over six years, an enormous amount of administrative chaos can build up. To say nothing of the possibility of underpayments.

And, at the other end of the spectrum. the Chancellor's own actions have worsened his position. The Treasury argument is that large VAT repayments are taking their toll on the nation's tax receipts and that much of this is down to extremely sharp VAT experts in the accountancy firms advising on highly effective tax planning strategies for clients. Many of these experts are gamekeepers turned poachers. They came from Customs and Excise in the first place. And they moved into the private sector because they could earn more there.

The answer would be to hire some back. Or take bright accountants in on something like a five-year contract. Then. expert could battle with expert on something approaching equal terms. But the Treasury now. like so much of UK business. has a cost-cutting culture. Cash to match private-sector salaries does not exist.

If the Chancellor wants to bring in more cash from the weird and wonderful world of VAT. then he should hark back to one of the basics of business: no investment. no returns.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Votes for all at the ICA?

THE English ICA has always thought itself a bit of a cut above the Association of Certified Accountants. For one thing. it doesn't have any of these desperately embarrassing campaigns to extend democracy throughout the membership that Professor Prem Sikka. the thorn in the certified's side. is forever mounting. But now Moorgate Place will have to eat humble pie. The eccentric accountancy tutor. Jeff Wooler. has garnered the ten signatures required to put a motion down at the institute's next annual meeting. On June 4. the institute will have to vote on whether to extend the constituency which elects each new president from that of the council to the whole membership. The shame of it.

Marathon meal

WHO said the rivalry between the English ICA and the Chartered Institute of Taxation was over and done with? Bob Dommett. secretary-general of the latter, runs in the London Marathon this weekend. And this week should have been one of careful training and diet to bring the man to the starting line in the peak of fitness. So what did the English ICA do? It held its annual dinner on Monday. to which it invited fellow institute dignitaries. Dommett manfully ploughed his way through potted fresh salmon with dill and sour cream. grilled breast of cornfed chicken and vegetables provençale, devils on horseback and mango bavarois. Expect a slow time on Sunday.

Taxing Maas

THE Inland Revenue sees turbulent times ahead. There is a new chairman of the technical committee of the English ICA's tax faculty. Ever since the faculty's foundation in 1991, the urbane figure of Adam Broke has chaired the committee. Now he is stepping down and his replacement is to be none other than Robert Maas, of Blackstone Franks. Maas is noted for his forthright and outspoken methods of conveying discontent with the tax system to the Inland Revenue. It will be interesting to see who the Revenue prefers in its dealing with the profession: the elegant rapier of Broke or the weighty bludgeon of Maas?

ROBERT BRUCE

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Confidence grows at Smiths Industries

By Paul Durman

SMITHS INDUSTRIES, the aerospace and medical instruments group headed by Sir Roger Hurn, has continued its strong progress with a 19 per cent increase in interim pre-tax profits to £69.5 million.

Smiths, which recently joined the FT-SE 100 index of Britain's leading companies, reported improved profits and margins in each of its aerospace, medical and industrial divisions.

Sir Roger, chairman and chief executive, said: "The outlook for all three business groups remains strong and gives me confidence that Smiths Industries will continue to grow and to produce good increases in profit and earnings per share."

Although Smiths's aerospace business is experiencing some disruption after the strike at Boeing last autumn, it will benefit from substantial new orders from the American aircraft manufacturer. Boeing intends next year to double production of its 777 wide-bodied airliner, and to increase the output of 737s from 76 to 108.

Smiths also announced it has won a $100 million contract to supply cockpit instrumentation for a new trainer aircraft for the US forces that is being made by Raytheon.

In the six months to February 3, the aerospace arm increased profits to £17.2 million, compared with £16.4 million, on slightly reduced sales of £171.4 million.

The medical companies increased their contribution from £26.3 million to £31.6 million. Sir Roger highlighted the export success of Portex, a manufacturer of medical tubes, and a good performance from Deltec, which makes infusion pumps.

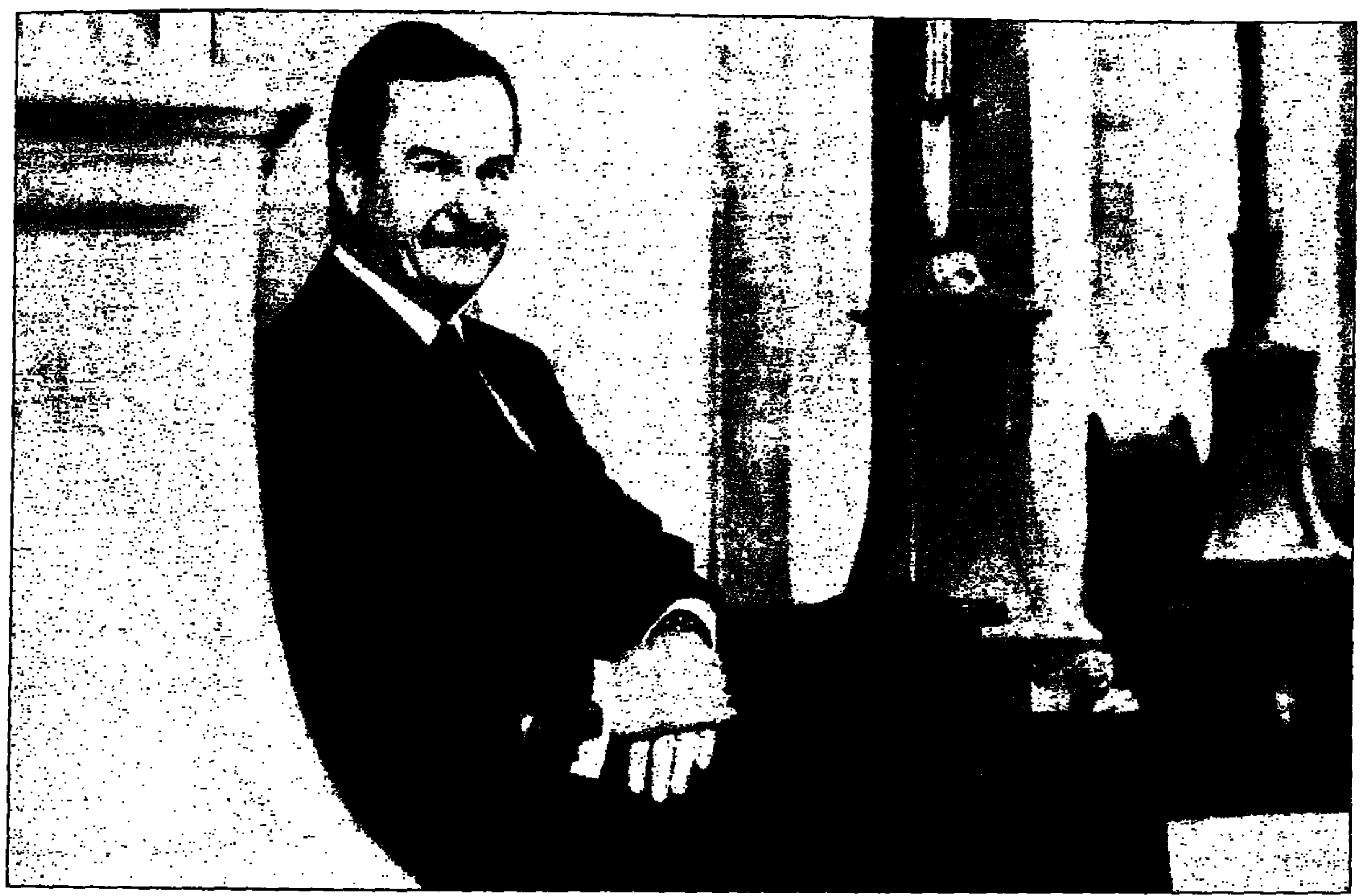
The industrial group, which includes Vent-Axia ventilation business, increased profits to £21.6 million from £16.2 million.

Smiths is paying an interim dividend of 5.6p, an 11 per cent increase. Earnings were 17 per cent ahead at 15.4p a share.

Sir Roger said Smiths was still pursuing fill-in acquisitions to add to the £300 million of purchases it has made in the past few years.

Smiths is looking for a prospective chief executive to take over from Sir Roger, who is 58 this summer and due to retire at 60. He would not be drawn on whether Einar Lindh, who recently took over the running of the industrial companies, was a potential candidate.

Tempus, page 28



Sir Roger Hurn says the outlook for Smiths Industries, which reported interim pre-tax profits 19 per cent up at £69.5 million, remains strong

ASB looks at asset valuations

By Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

COMPANIES would have to write down assets if their worth fell below their balance sheet value even if the directors thought the fall might be temporary, under proposed new accounting rules. The change, if approved, would end the practice whereby companies revalue properties upwards in good times but are reluctant to incorporate property market falls.

Companies would not need to adjust the balance sheet values of their own factories and offices for a fall in the property market if the business they are used for is making reasonable profits. This should relieve companies from making constant revaluations because of changes in property markets.

Impairment of Tangible Fixed Assets, the latest discussion document from the Accounting Standards Board, also suggests a new way of estimating the net present value of assets in use, if companies fear that the market value of an asset is less than shown in the balance sheet. This would be based on discounting estimated future cash flows, as in the board's separate proposals for valuing goodwill.

Assets would only be written down if they were in the balance sheet at more than the greater of "present value" and their "net recoverable value". The latter may be less than the crude market value if selling it involves costs such as redundancy payments.

Under the proposals, writedowns for impairment need only be charged as losses if the updated valuation is lower than the asset's depreciated historic costs.

Irish business boom lifts Ryan Hotels to Ir£2.8m

By Fraser Nelson

THE boom in business trips to Ireland, after the IRA ceasefire, has boosted annual pre-tax profits at Ryan Hotels by 43 per cent to a record Ir£2.79 million.

Corporate custom grew sharply last year, as the Dublin group increased the overall number of high-yielding executive suites by 11 per cent to cater for the business market.

Higher yields were also achieved by Ryan's hotels at Galway and Killarney, where the Ir£2.8 million spent on their leisure centres has commanded higher room prices. Its hotels in Amsterdam, Brussels and Hamburg all increased their profits, but were overshadowed by Ryan's strong Irish portfolio.

Room occupation was down 2 per cent to 74 per cent, but Connor McCarthy, chairman, said this came with the overall move upmarket. "Our business mix is changing and this drop in occupancy has been more than compensated by the jump in yield," he said. Turnover had jumped 25 per cent in its Dublin hotel.

"Since the ceasefire, the demand for rooms has been staggering," he said. "It's almost impossible to book a flight to London from Ireland nowadays, and as long as this kind of demand continues, our business rooms will keep on performing." Since the IRA ceasefire, business trips to Ireland from the UK have jumped 25 per cent. This has shown few signs of slowing since the IRA's Docklands bomb. Next month, Aer Lingus is laying on a further 33 London-Dublin flights a week.

Mr McCarthy said he was confident that this momentum would continue, in spite of the end of the ceasefire. "After the bomb, the phones stopped ringing for about 24 hours and then it was back to normal," he said. "I don't see this changing; economic activity in Ireland is growing by 6 per cent per annum and our business will grow with it."

Ryan's gearing, which hit profits in the past, fell 4 points to 40 per cent, while cash assets almost halved from Ir£386,000 to Ir£200,000. Earnings rose to Ir3.67p (Ir2.4p). An Ir1p final dividend makes Ir1.5p (Ir1.25p).

WH Smith invites agencies to pitch

By Our City Staff

WH SMITH, the retail chain, has invited advertising agencies to pitch for its advertising business. A decision is expected within two weeks.

Among those hoping to replace Bartle Bogle Hegarty (BBH), which stood down as WH Smith's agency in February, are believed to be Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO, BMP DDB Needham, Duckworth Finn Grubb Waters and Saatchi & Saatchi, the Cordiant subsidiary.

WH Smith is estimated to have spent about £11 million on advertising over the past year. The company, which has diversified beyond its core stationery and book business, has seen profits squeezed recently by the expansion of supermarkets into its traditional product areas, as well as by sluggish consumer demand.

Bartle Bogle Hegarty's first work for WH Smith in 1992 took the form of a press and poster campaign with the catchline *We don't sell...* This was later replaced with the gentler line, *There's more to life with WH Smith*. The media planning account is expected to remain with the media affiliate of BBH.

Control of Trafalgar passes to Kvaerner

By Martin Barrow

KVAERNER, the Norwegian offshore engineering and shipbuilding group, will today take control of the day-to-day management of Trafalgar House, the British shipping and construction conglomerate.

Eric Tonseth, president of Kvaerner, said it would take three to four weeks to complete a reorganisation of the management of Trafalgar House.

He added: "We now want to start co-ordinating operations to make a stronger and more powerful Kvaerner. At the same time, we will sell the assets that we do not want to keep." Although Kvaerner has not given precise details of likely divestments, it is believed to be seeking a buyer for Cunard, Trafalgar's troubled cruise line whose vessels include *Queen Elizabeth 2*.

The takeover of Trafalgar was declared unconditional yesterday, with acceptances received in respect of more than 90 per cent of the ordinary shares and almost 95 per cent of the preference shares. Competition authorities in Europe and America have given their consent.

Kvaerner's cash offer for Trafalgar House, which was recommended by the Trafalgar board, was worth about £904 million, but the company will also assume Trafalgar's substantial debts.

Hongkong Land, Trafalgar House's main shareholder, gave its consent in respect of its 25.8 per cent shareholding.

Kvaerner has yet to declare what is to be the fate of its 26.1 per cent holding in Amec, the British engineering conglomerate, the legacy of a failed takeover late last year.

Savings products boost new business at Pru

By Marianne Curphey

PRUDENTIAL'S sale of regular premium pension products fell 8 per cent to £24 million in the first quarter of the year, but new business was boosted by the popularity of the company's bonds and savings products.

The UK's largest insurer said savers had switched their cash from building societies and guaranteed bonds into single premium products, but were still reluctant to commit themselves to regular savings plans.

Peter Nowell, group chief actuary, said concern over the pensions mis-selling scandal and fears about job security meant consumers were "cash rich but unwilling to start saving for a time in the future" and were more interested in lump-sum investments than regular contributions. Sales of single contribution products in the UK increased 34 per cent to £866 million, the highest quarterly level for more than two years. Sales of regular contribution products were £71 million (1995: £74 million).

The Prudential said growth in single premium new business was driven by increased sales of annuities and non-linked savings products, in particular Prudence Bond and Prudence Savings Account. Sales of personal equity plans rose 67 per cent. These areas are to be the focus of future marketing and sales activities.

Sales of annual premium life and pension products fell 6 per cent to £59 million. Prudential has made no secret of its plans for expansion and acquisition, and Mr Nowell said it was looking at a number of areas of suitable business. These are believed to include building societies and life companies.

Single premium sales at Jackson National Life, Prudential's American subsidiary, totalled $633 million, down 22 per cent on 1995's record first quarter, but up 38 per cent on the last quarter of 1995. At Prudential Asia, annual premium sales rose 20 per cent to £18 million.

At Mercantile & General, Prudential's reinsurance subsidiary, sales of annual and single premiums remained firm at £15 million and £159 million respectively.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

AA

The Automobile Association
Annual General Meeting 1996

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of The Automobile Association will be held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Broad Sanctuary, Westminster, London, on Thursday 23 May 1996 at 11.30am to receive the Report of the Committee and the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 1995, to elect members of the Committee, to elect the auditor and to deal with any other business that the meeting is competent to transact.

Dated 3 April 1996

Norfolk House
Priestley Road
Basingstoke
Hampshire RG24 9NY

By order of the
Committee of
The Automobile Association
C J SKEEN
Secretary

Copies of the Report and Accounts and any members' resolutions for consideration at the meeting are available to members on application to the Secretary.

Members are reminded to bring their AA membership card with them.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
OF SOLE LIQUIDATOR
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
TO CLAIM
C H GARDINER
(COVENT GARDEN) LTD
(IN LIQUIDATION)
Principal Trading Address: 302-303 Flower Market, New Covent Garden, London SW8 5NB
Company Number 888966
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that on 20 March 1996, N G Atkinson was appointed liquidator of the above named company (compulsory winding up).
Creditors of the company who have not already done so should submit their claims in writing to the liquidator at the following address under reference: PXP/TXK/KDD
Deloitte & Touche
PO Box 810
Hill House
1 Little New Street
London EC4A 3TR

WINDRUSH WINES
AND DELICATESSEN LIMITED
IN LIQUIDATION
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS
On 9 April 1996 the company was placed in creditors' voluntary liquidation. Derek Anthony Howell of Price Waterhouse has been appointed liquidator.
Creditors of the company are requested to send details in writing of their claims against the company to the liquidator at Price Waterhouse, Haywood House, Dumfries Place, Cardiff CF1 4BA.
Claims need not be in any particular form, but creditors wishing to claim VAT bad debt relief are requested to complete the form issued by the liquidator. The liquidator reserves his right to require a creditor to support his or her claim by affidavit.
DA Howell, Liquidator.
15 April 1996.

LEGAL NOTICES

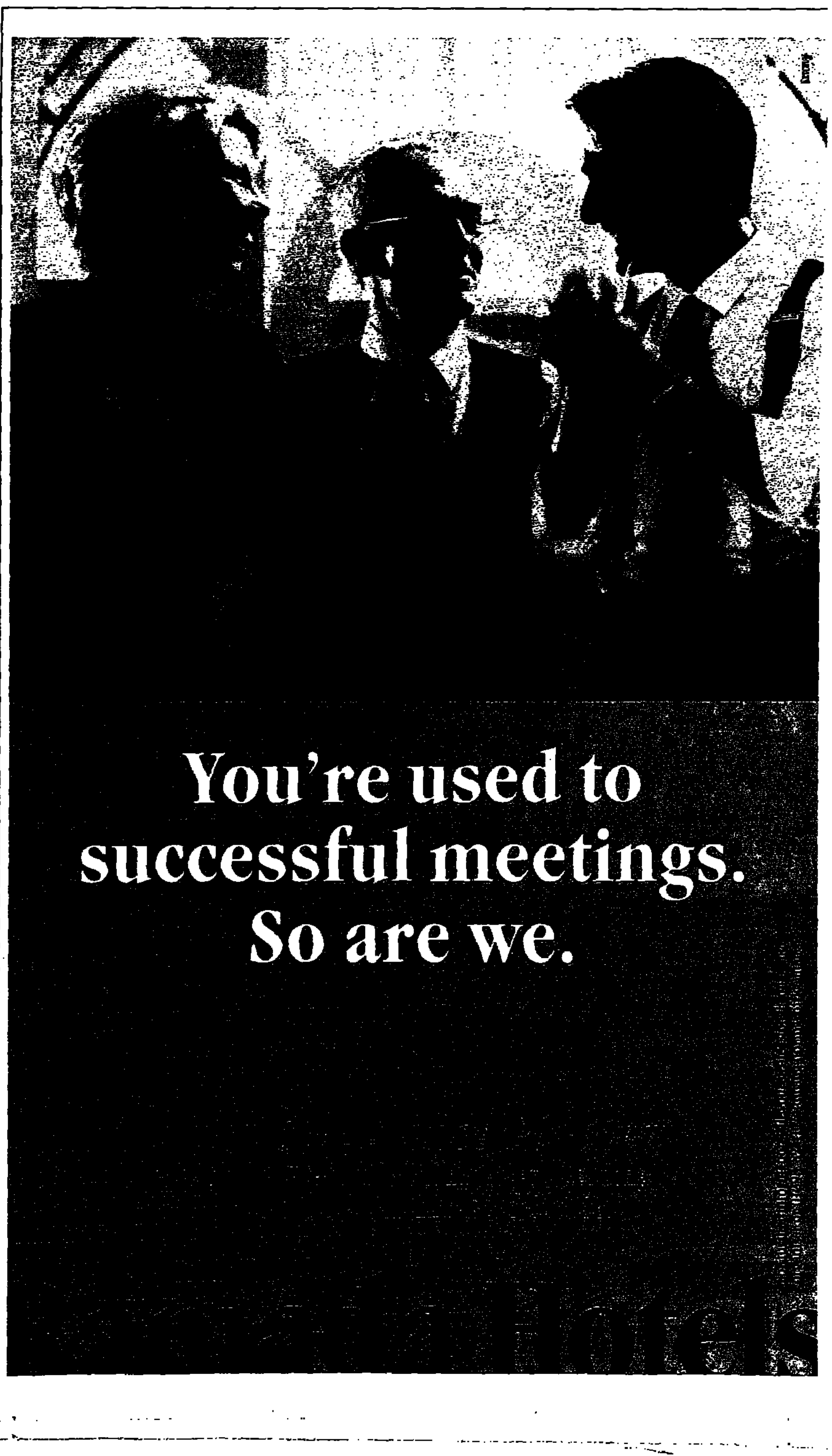
The Insolvency Act 1986
Innovative Communications
Europe Consultancy Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Shirley Angela Jackson was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by the Members on 29th March 1996.
NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above named company are required, on or before the 17th May 1996, to send in their full names, addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to me, S. A. Jackson of Begbie Norton & Partners, 1 & 2 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5BZ, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated this 12th April 1996.
S A JACKSON, Liquidator.
N.B. This Notice is purely formal. All known creditors should be paid in full.

IN THE MATTER OF
PLAXTOL DESIGN LIMITED
AND
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting of the creditors of the above named company convened under the provisions of S.98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, and held on 2 April 1996, I, Melvyn Julian Carter, of Carter Backer Winter, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5UU was duly appointed Liquidator of the company.
M J Carter, Liquidator.
Dated 3rd day of April 1996.

NOTICE
TO THE CREDITORS OF:
Cedars Administration
Limited Company No:2699782
Cobyco Limited
Company No: 2444805
Deb Group Limited
Company No: 2697082
Limehouse Limited
Company No: 2698138
Limecroft Limited
Company No: 2698141
Limebase Limited
Company No: 2698749
Deb Chemical Proprietaries
Limited Company No: 2698142
Debus Limited
Company No: 2698139
Swarfega Limited
Company No: 2699590
Deb Europe Limited
Company No: 2698148
Deb Swarfega Limited
Company No: 2699560
Permaflect Limited
Company No: 2684205
Deb Chemicals Limited
Company No: 2699551
DGC Hygiene Limited
Company No: 2642195
Deb North
America Limited
Company No: 2697359
Kirk & Gardenaire
Limited Company No: 1915885
On 3 April 1996 the above companies were placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Richard James Rees of Price Waterhouse was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.
The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182a of the Insolvency Act 1986 that the creditors of the companies must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator, at Price Waterhouse, Victoria House, 76 Milton Street, Nottingham, NG1 3QY by 20 May 1996 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The companies are able to pay all their known creditors in full.
11 April 1996.
R J Rees, Liquidator.

The Insolvency Act 1986
CADMON LIMITED
IN LIQUIDATION
TAKE NOTICE THAT I, Michael William Young of Morton Thornton & Co, Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 1HD was appointed Liquidator of Cadmon Limited with effect from 12 April 1996 by an Order of the Secretary of State dated 9 April 1996.
DATED 15th of April 1996.
Michael William Young.
Liquidator.

No:80 of 1995
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
MR REGISTRAR BUCKLEY
The 10th day of April 1996
IN THE MATTER OF
NEWFOAM LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 6 January 1996 presented to Her Majesty's Court of Justice for confirmation of the reduction of capital of the above-named Company from £400,000 to £250,000.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL on 24th day of April 1996 at 10am.
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated this 10th day
of April 1996.
Dale and Newbery Solicitors for the above-named Company
of Quebec House, 3 Palmer Court,
London Road, Uckfield,
East Sussex, TN22 1HX.
Tel: 01825 766767


You're used to successful meetings.
So are we.

Shares and gilts end lower

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	480	Allied Domecq	503	+ 3	5.9	18.2
625	500	Bulmer (HP)	622		2.5	19.5
131	115	Burn Stewart	130		5.3	25.5
464	411	Grand Met	440	− 4	4.2	18.9
493	435	Guinness†	465½	− 5	4.0	15.8
365	315	Highland Distl	364		2.8	16.9
185	150	Macallan-Glenl	170		1.1	34.9
650	615	Macdn Mrtn A	633		2.2	17.8
765	656	Matthew Clark	761		3.6	
116	93	Merrydown W	103		2.4	
2612½	1912½	SA Breweries	2087½	+ 50	1.5	21.7

BANKS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3306¼	2743¾	ABN-AMRO	3268¾	+ 3½	4.4	
663	529	Abbey Natl	571	− 9	4.7	11.1
385	322	Allied Irish	344	+ 2	5.0	10.0
336	259	Aus New Z	317	+ 5	5.4	
5243¾	3843¾	Bank America	4937½	− 87½		
316	238½	Bank Scotland	253	− 4½	3.0	11.2
819	683	Barclays†	749	− 1	4.3	9.8
488	422	Bk of Ireland	466	+ 1	3.6	9.3
482	424	Cater Allen	444		8.4	7.3
5368¾	4031¼	Citicorp	5112½	− 18¾		
392	318	Close Brost	365	+ 1	3.1	16.2
£157⅝	£142⅞	Commerzbk	£147⅞	− 134¾	3.6	
1293¾	1171¼	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1243¾	− 43¾	0.4	
3412½	2978½	Deutsche Bk	3300	− 21½	2.2	
796½	593¾	Espirito Santo	796½		4.6	10.4
1607	1365½	Fuji Bank Y	1347½	− 21½	0.4	
472	399	Gerrard Nat	402		7.0	13.0
252	196	Hambros	248		3.8	
1125	949	HSBC†	1000½	− 26½	4.0	11.6
1099	930	HSBC Hdt	984	− 27	4.1	11.4
421	385	Irish Perm†	386		3.3	
165	143	King Shaxson	156		7.3	12.0
453	448	Leopold J	450		5.2	15.5
347½	294½	Lloyds TSB†	331½	− ½	2.9	17.8
640	576	Nat Aust Bk	587	− 4	7.4	7.5
711	608	Nat West†	636	− 14	5.0	8.9
66	58	Rea Brothers†	58		3.3	27.5
596	483	Ryl Bk Scot	516	− 1	3.9	11.7
1380	1185	Schroders†	1215	− 18	1.6	17.0
1128	890	Schroders N/V†	983	− 10	2.0	13.7
113	99½	Singer & Fried	105		4.9	8.2
662½	547	Stand Chart†	617	− 16	2.2	11.5
105	85½	Unamt	103		3.6	
£174⅝	£131⅝	Wells Fargo	£167⅝	+ 206¼	1.8	
319½	264	Westpac	317¼	− ½	4.6	
305	268	Wintrust	300		4.9	17.2

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
368	263	Ascot Hldgs	343	+ 2		0.7
779	702	Bass	779	+ 8	3.6	17.9
70	45	Bit for the Bdr	46		4.5	12.0
177	166	Burtonwd Bre	166	− 1	4.1	16.1
116	92	City Centre Rest	116	+ 8	2.5	
548	463	Compass Gp	544	− 3	1.7	24.0
263	190	Eldridge P	245		2.3	22.6
480	413	Folk Sm A	478		2.1	18.9
614	551	Greenalls Grp	600	+ 1	3.0	16.3
667	604	Greene King	667	+ 4	2.7	16.4
278	224	Grosvenor Inns	231		3.0	24.6
254	204	Groupe Chez Gerl	218		1.5	22.1
357	300	Hardy Hanson	314	− 2	4.0	11.7
230	155	Heavitree	210		3.5	
1438	1095	Holt J	1438	+ 38	2.9	18.4
328	313	Marstons	327		2.1	16.4
348	307	Merston Thmp	344	+ 4	2.7	16.2
668	535	Morland	664		2.2	18.6
147	119	My Kinda Town†	140	− 1	2.7	13.8
6½	5½	Paramount†	5½		5.0	8.8
142½	122	Pelican Gp	138	+ 1	1.6	23.2
357	313	PizzaExpress	326	+ 1	0.9	33.9

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
535	426	Brammer†	524		3.4	
22	18	Bridgend Gp	21		1.2	
101	76	Brit Fittings†	101		4.5	
285	245	Caffyns	285	+ 2	5.0	19.7
14½	10½	Cavendale†	14½	+ ½	2.6	
78	66½	Central Mtr	71		0.9	
92	78	Charles Sidney	87	+ 1	5.3	13.7
61	54½	Cook (DC)	57		3.7	9.3
356	287	Cowie†	356	+ 2	3.7	13.4
170	120½	Dag Motors†	170	+ 6	5.7	
163	129½	Denmans El	163		2.0	14.7
434	385	Diploma	423	+ 5	4.3	13.7
383	328	Electrocomponents	383	+ 3	2.0	20.0
314	271	Eurodis Elec	293	− 7	1.9	21.0
128	65	Eurodollar	127	+ 3	7.7	7.8
106	76	European Mtr	81		8.0	6.9
336	286	Evans Halshaw†	336	+ 7	6.1	12.2
67	57	Fife Indmtrt	63		6.5	
300	248	Finelist Grp	300	+ 2	2.3	17.6
29	16½	Gardiner	29	+ 1	3.7	11.6
64½	33½	Glenchewton†	58	+ 1	1.9	42.6
88	84	Gowrings†	87		4.0	
250	216	Harris (Philip)	250		3.7	15.9
260	200½	Headlam	260	+ 4	2.3	
649	497	Henlys	649	+ 4	2.3	19.0
150	132	Holders Tech	150		5.0	28.5
185	153	ISA Intl	173	− 2	1.1	
315	231	Inchcape†	314	+ 5	3.7	
60	33	Jacks (Wm)	48	+ 7	2.0	9.1
219	169	Kwik-Fit	217		2.9	15.2
331	299	Lex Service	325	+ 8	5.8	11.8
147½	119	Lookers▼	125	+ 1	7.9	
17	10½	Malaya Grpt	13½		6.1	14.0
9½	7½	Matthesen C	8		0.8	18.4
47	31	Midstates	41			
539	440	Norbain	535		1.8	18.2
298	232	Northamber	288	+ 9	0.8	23.9
162	135	PCT E	147		6.5	10.5
304	272	Pendragon	304	+ 4	3.7	15.4
195	145	Perry Gp	195	+ 6	5.3	
687	603	Premier Farnell	687	+ 14	1.8	20.0
158	135	Quicks Group†	159	+ 1	5.0	
246	185	REA	243		2.1	38.9
3	2½	Reece	2½			
61	39	Ronson	48		3.3	9.6
3½	2	Ross Gp	2½			
55	49	SEP Intl	51		3.9	11.9
17½	12	Salfire	16½		0.8	
293	246	Time Products	293	+ 2	3.9	17.1
41	30	Torex Hire	35		4.6	18.4
295	268	Vardy (Reg)†	295		2.5	16.4
405	335	Wholesale Ftgs	406	+ 15	3.7	21.5
59	37	Wilshaw	32	− ½	2.7	8.8
118	78	Wyko	115		1.9	
125	104	Young (H)	114		4.3	13.3

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
0½	0½	Anglo Utd	0½			
388	288	Antofagasta	350	− 8	1.9	11.7
1011	896	Baden Vnl	999		2.6	21.3
340	313	BTR†	319	− 6	5.8	13.2
586	477	BAT†	510	+ 1	5.9	10.6
215	181	Berisford Intl	208	+ 1	1.8	20.2
125	111	Bodey (J)	122		6.9	9.8
62½	50½	Brierley Invt	61½		7.6	3.1
908	817	Charter†	883	− 6	3.9	13.1
327	282	Cookson†	327	+ 4	3.1	17.1
167	141	Cosalt	167	+ 1	6.5	10.5
138	120	Grampian Hdg	137		5.7	
220	179	Hanson†	191¾	+ 2½	7.8	9.5
172½	142	Hanson Cwnt	147	− 1	7.7	15.6
438½	379½	Hutch Whamp	413½	− 5½	1.9	21.6
563½	441¼	Jardine Math	527	+ 1½	3.1	
217½	177½	Lonrho	197½	− 4½	3.0	22.2
178	164	McLeod Russel	176		4.5	15.9
478	403	Powell Duffryn	440	+ 2	7.1	18.1
146	132	Ropner†	136	+ 1	7.6	
174	155	Sime Darby	173		2.8	15.3
215	192½	Slaveley	215		4.9	14.7
173	156	Suter†	168	+ 1	7.3	
330	268	TT Group	330		2.5	16.7
254½	251	Tomkins	252	− 3	4.2	14.7

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
255	300	Oceonics	245		4.2	15.2
18	14½	Quadrant Gp	15		2.1	41.9
65	82	Radiant Metal	65			
69	53	Ransomes	68			18.9
73	55½	Record	71	+ 2	6.6	12.9
276	231	Renold	274½		2.4	15.5
36	32½	Richards Group	33		8.6	9.8
89	78	Richardson West	81		5.8	
230½	187	Rolls-Royce	228		2.8	26.9

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
510	475	Candover†	510	+ 5	3.2	
62½	39	Central Euro Gwth	60½		0.9	
214	177	Conti Asset	214		1.8	78.8
75	67	Danae Inv Inc	67		14.9	7.6
356	325	Derby Cap	355			
160	142	Derby Inc	142		17.0	7.3
744	683	Dunedin Inc Gt	701	+ 3	4.9	24.5
95	84	Dunedin Japan	94			
344	314	Dunedin Smlr	342½		3.3	44.0

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
121	111	Murray Ent	121		2.4	45.8
23	17	Murray Ent Wts	20			
95	82	Murray Emg Eco	91½	+ ½	1.2	
35½	21	Murray Em Ec Wt	28½	− ½		
65	54	Murray Euro†	64½		0.7	
392	370	Murray Incomet	378		4.0	31.1
422	377	Murray Intl	422	+ 3	3.7	30.9
184½	180	Murray S/C OP	184½	+ ½		
151	135	Murray S/C Cap	135			
73	66	Murray S/C Inc	68		20.9	6.0

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
576	495	Dorling Kind†	553		0.9	39.9
671	530	EMAP	657	− 3	2.1	25.9
1091	845¾	Elsevier	1063¾	− 31	2.2	
1330	1030	Euromoney Pb	1275		4.3	25.6
34	19	Fitch	34			
535	440	Flextech	507			
240	192	GGT Group	204		3.3	15.6
259¾	174	GWR Gp▼	270		1.3	22.1
226	200	Gartmore Group	223		2.5	14.6
26	18	Goodhead	25		0.5	

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
100	98	Inv B C	100			
114	96½	INVESCO Asia	109½	− 1		
63	53	INVESCO Blue	63		16.7	7.1
165	135	INVESCO Eng Int	163	+ 1	0.8	
137	122	INVESCO Korea	130½	+ ½		
62½	52½	INVESCO Tokyo	60½	− ½		
88½	69	J Fry 2nd U	81	− 2½	10.5	10.1
79	69	J Fry Euro U	70		7.9	12.8
251	224	JF Fledg Jap	241	− 1½		
88	74	Jupiter Ex Inc	80	+ 1	12.2	6.8
7	4	Jupiter Ex IncWt	4			
85	70	Jupiter Grd Cap	74		13.2	9.5

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
193	161	Euro Leisure	161			4.4
16	13½	Farmstead	14			
73	62	First Choice	68½	− ½	7.2	
349	247	First Leisure	327	+ 1	2.5	22.5
172	143	Friendly Hotels	172	− 2	4.2	
925	619	Granada	822		1.8	15.9
34	35	Hi-Tec Sports	31	− 2	5.2	
199	149	Homity	192			
542	422	Hazelock	529	− 2	2.7	20.3
345	301	Jurys Hotel	338	− 7	3.3	15.3
30½	22½	Kunick	30		2.5	
197	143	Ladbroke†	191	+ 2	2.3	37.0

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1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
26½	24½	Jupiter Grd Ptd	26½			
128	108	Jupiter Intl Gm	123		4.1	
279	252	Klnwt Chrt	279		2.5	49.3
130	114	Klnwt E Mkt	121	− 1		
150	133	Klnwt Endl	146			
91	80	Klnwt Euro Prvt	91	+ ½	3.1	40.2
24½	19½	Klnwt Euro Wts	24			
84	74	Klnwt H Inc	80		13.4	8.6
298	274	Klnwt O'seas†	297	− ½	1.5	73.1
160	136	Klnwt Smlr†	160		2.6	
594½	524	Korea—Euro	580	+ 8½	0.1	
118½	96½	Latin American	105½	− ½		
1007	920	Law Debenture†	1004		2.8	35.8
114	99	Lloyds Sm Cap	113	− 1		

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
560	425	London Clubs	540	− 1	3.2	19.3
351½	188	Man Utd	333	− 2	1.8	10.8
90½	77½	Mandarin Orntl	87½	− 2½	4.2	18.5
117	89	Northern	116	− 1	4.4	12.9
141	114	Prism Leisure	126		5.0	8.8
36	29	Queensborough	31			
32	11½	Queens Moat	28½	− 1		
538	442	Rank Orgt	531	− 7	3.2	14.9
42½	31	Ryan Hotels IE	41½	+ 3½	4.8	
1390	930	Savoy Hotel A	1356	+ 20	1.3	53.9
191	175	Smplar (Wm)	191	+ 1	5.0	12.3
110	80	Stakis	108½	− 1½	2.0	22.8
462	335	Stanley Leisure	462	+ 3	1.7	24.0
20½	13	Tandem	16½		3.8	3.3

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

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BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

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LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

هدية من الاهل

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
01895 250 783

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Growland Amer	215.70	227.50	+ 1.70	0.15
Growland Equity	280.30	298.80	- 0.30	1.82
Growland Euro	272.50	298.30	2.85	1.57
Growland Capt Bal	132.30	177.10		
Growland Gilt	75.89	78.74	+ 0.03	
Growland Japan	182.80	193.60	- 0.35	

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
General Acc	658.30	700.40†	- 0.20	2.52
General Inc	559.30	595.10†	- 0.20	
UK Growth Acc	446.30	474.80†	- 0.50	
UK Growth Inc	293.00	311.80†	- 0.20	
Higher Inc Acc	797.70	848.70†	- 1.30	4.18
Higher Inc Inc	435.20	463.00†	- 0.70	4.18
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	204.00	215.50†	- 0.50	5.70
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	91.58	96.73†	- 0.24	5.70
Nth America	375.60	379.60†	- 4.10	
Europe	354.50	377.20†	- 0.50	0.39
Brit Excels	89.05	94.74	+ 0.48	
Brit Fedrals Acc	115.60	123.00†		4.76
Brit Fedrals Inc	79.21	84.27†	- 0.04	4.77
Global Opps	105.40	112.70	+ 0.40	0.26
Balanced Acc	63.64	67.71†	- 0.03	2.61
Balanced Inc	60.15	63.99†	- 0.04	2.61
Japan Acc	49.92	53.11†	+ 0.08	
Pac Basin Acc	436.90	464.90†	- 0.50	0.78

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilts & Fixed Int	128.10	135.90†	+ 0.10	
High Inc Equity	183.50	196.30†	- 1.30	4.29
Worldwide Bond	291.10	308.60	- 0.50	
American Growth	364.80	390.30	+ 1.10	0.19
Asian Pacific	359.30	384.30	- 0.40	0.06
Assets & Earnings	308.40	328.10	+ 0.40	
Euro Capital Acc	179.10	191.50	- 0.60	0.54
Extra Inc	44.25	47.07†	- 0.07	
General	278.10	295.80	+ 0.80	
Global Opps	67.95	72.29	+ 0.35	0.41
Japan	133.90	142.20	- 0.10	
Managed Inc	48.40	51.49†	+ 0.16	4.52
Mastertrust	170.10	181.90	+ 0.30	1.41
US Emerging Cos	203.70	216.70	+ 3.20	
Ethical	92.71	87.99	+ 0.34	2.58
International	141.80	150.90	+ 0.30	0.56
Dividend & Growth	68.70	73.09	- 0.49	4.20
Global Govts & Sec	72.63	77.61	- 0.08	7.50
Latin America	61.21	65.12	- 0.03	
Capital Reserve	143.00	143.00		5.34

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Small Cos	2169.00	2256.00		

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 580

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Inc & Growth	59.22	61.49†	- 3.65	0.50
Emerging Mkts	74.65	78.79	- 0.35	0.04
European	148.30	154.10	- 0.30	
Exempt	1042.90	1111.80†	+ 3.93	1.67
Extra Income #	47.18	50.74†	+ 0.18	6.53
Far East Emg Eco	139.00	145.90	- 0.60	0.42
Fixed Interest #	24.51	25.49	+ 0.02	9.27
Fund Inv Tst	152.10	159.70†	+ 0.70	2.61
Japan	195.50	203.30	- 0.60	
Latin American	55.36	57.76	- 0.04	0.84
Pacific	90.24	94.75†	- 0.45	0.39
Property Share	65.67	68.94	- 0.40	2.36
UK Emerging Cos	71.60	77.08	+ 0.25	1.25
UK Growth	51.93	54.90†	+ 0.01	2.14
Aber World Port #	83.62	85.16	- 0.02	1.92
Ethical	78.77	81.92	+ 0.10	2.15
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.02	50.02†	- 0.06	7.51

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 489 8673

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Japan Fd	721.40	749.70	+ 3.70	
Magd Fd	202.30	214.90†		2.77
Brit & Ocea.	373.70	396.30		0.80
Capital Gwth	126.80	134.20		2.46
Wrlde Opps	227.50	240.70		0.86

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 534 5544

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Trusts				
Bist Inv Fd Inc	415.70	433.00†	- 5.20	2.51
European Bd Inc	95.56	98.91	+ 0.11	6.57
Exempt	80.25	85.57†	- 0.89	3.82
Financial	97.25	104.00	+ 0.20	2.38
500	513.10	554.70	+ 3.90	2.44
General	321.80	344.60†	+ 0.70	2.48
Property	242.20	258.80†		6.29
Trustee	222.00	237.30	+ 0.50	2.31
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.20	100.20†		5.31
Extra Income #	134.40	143.70†	+ 0.20	4.82
Gilt & Fxd Int	57.15	59.16	+ 0.13	8.22
Income #	589.40	630.40	+ 1.10	4.64
Income Builder #	69.77	74.42†	+ 0.26	5.31
Intl Income	71.43	75.98	+ 0.24	2.98
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	139.40	148.70	+ 0.60	2.09
Leisure	175.60	187.90	+ 1.30	0.83
Recovery	485.40	519.20	+ 0.10	2.65
Smllr Cos Inc	56.15	60.22	+ 0.41	1.98
Special Sits	383.00	409.70	+ 1.40	1.34
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	174.00	185.00	+ 1.50	0.21
Aust Acc.	295.50	315.70	+ 1.00	2.05
Aust Inc	178.20	190.30	+ 0.60	2.05
Euro Gwth Inc	189.50	201.10	+ 0.80	0.57
-do- Accum	204.60	217.10	+ 0.90	0.57
Japan & Gen Inc	166.20	176.60†	+ 0.50	..
-do- Accum	168.20	178.00	+ 0.50	.
Japan Spec Sits	76.61	81.18	+ 0.24	.
Worldwide	202.10	214.60	+ 0.70	0.55

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
0171 214 1004

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Growth	127.60	134.80	+ 1.80	.
Amer Smlr Cos	169.20	180.60	+ 3.00	
Convertibles	60.96	65.30†	+ 0.23	4.90
Eastern	332.60	357.40		0.30
Equity Income	96.34	103.00		3.80
European Growth	367.80	390.70	+ 0.60	0.80
Europe	330.20	351.00	+ 1.30	1.80
German Growth	87.37	92.66	+ 0.23	0.50
Global Bond	70.41	74.11	+ 0.01	6.50
Global Growth	150.70	160.50	+ 0.80	0.40
Japan Growth	215.40	231.00	+ 1.00	..
Japan Sunrise	176.20	187.80	+ 1.30	..
Korea Trust	79.21	86.31	+ 0.69	
Portfolio	146.00	156.50	+ 0.10	2.30
-do- Accum	273.40	293.10	+ 0.30	2.30
UK Growth	98.88	106.30	+ 0.20	2.60
UK Smaller Cos	93.38	101.60†	+ 0.70	2.50
Select Managers	89.78	96.22†	+ 0.26	1.00

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 250 3300

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Gwth Port Inc	93.37	99.33		
Special Oppor Inc	64.53	68.65		

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
0141 223 6020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Growth	136.95	144.92†	+ 0.68	1.47
-do- Accum	157.86	167.05	+ 0.79	1.47
Smaller Cos	144.71	153.13	+ 1.19	0.84
Higher Yield #	55.03	58.23†	+ 0.30	3.94
American Gth Inc	100.79	106.65	+ 1.45	.
European Growth	162.41	171.86†	+ 0.90	0.12
-do- Accum	165.68	175.32	+ 1.01	0.12
Global Bond Inc #	27.63	28.63	+ 0.05	7.01
Mngd Ptflo Inc	53.21	56.28†	+ 0.32	1.27
-do- Accum	54.84	58.00	+ 0.38	1.27
Intl Spec Opps	163.72	173.25	+ 1.33	
Pacific Gwth	158.29	167.50	+ 0.25	0.23
UK General #	93.68	99.13	+ 0.41	3.32
-do- Accum #	98.61	104.25	+ 0.43	3.32
Japan	64.58	68.34	+ 0.01	.
Gilt & Fixed Int #	95.54	102.11†	+ 0.27	8.72

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cazenove Portfolio	100.65	107.29	+ 0.06	2.39
American Portfolio	118.79	126.16	+ 0.12	0.90
European Portfolio	128.15	136.35†	+ 0.10	0.42
High Income	50.40	50.60	- 0.26	7.89
Japanese Portfolio	73.41	78.07†	- 0.03	
Pacific Portfolio	165.83	178.32	+ 0.19	1.48
UK Equity	95.52	102.02†	- 0.02	2.79
UK Equity & Inc	58.90	59.57	+ 0.02	6.45

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Inv Fund	759.19	770.67		4.20
Fxd Int Sec	152.80	153.42		9.32

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	739.41	750.59		4.37
Investment Acc	533.33	533.83		
Fixed Int Inc	123.41	123.91		9.36
Fixed Int Acc	214.80	215.66		

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beckman Intl	89.11	94.09	+ 0.96	3.16
Bock Bio-Tech	45.99	49.63		
Acum Ethical 1st	180.21	180.21		0.50
City Fin Assets	79.46	83.44†		1.96
City Fin America	122.54	129.68†	+ 3.43	
City Fin Intl	96.25	103.29†	+ 1.81	0.79
City Fin Japan	162.39	170.52	+ 3.14	
Fram. Hse Cap	321.93	342.48		2.18
Fram. Hse Inc	205.64	218.77		4.05
Brkley Wrld Grth	154.06	163.30†	+ 2.42	
Fairmnt Cap Gth	156.34	164.57		
Fairmount Intl	167.00	175.79		
J Sia Inc Tab Inc	58.34	61.76		1.57

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Emerging Mkts	60.15	63.82	+ 0.37	

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0800 373 393

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gwth	79.52	84.60	+ 0.92	
Dragon Growth	77.11	82.47	- 0.07	0.34
Equity High Inc	90.49	96.25	0.09	4.15
-do- Accum	127.34	135.47	- 0.13	4.15
Extra Income Inc	35.76	37.12†	+ 0.05	7.58
Extra Income Acc	37.56	39.01	+ 0.05	7.58
European Gwth	62.35	67.22	- 0.08	0.98
Evergreen	31.10	33.26	- 0.04	
General Equity	101.50	107.69	0.12	2.86
Japan Growth	55.23	58.76	+ 0.18	
Perf'mer Gwth	62.36	66.34	+ 0.03	2.40
Perf Sm Cos Inc	37.37	39.75	+ 0.28	1.45
-do- Accum	39.34	41.85	+ 0.28	1.45
Retirement Inc #	29.24	30.04	+ 0.13	5.66
Special Sits	47.51	50.54	+ 0.26	1.92
UK & Overseas	59.81	63.46	+ 0.17	0.70

COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD
01634 898 000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced	68.09	70.83	+ 0.06	4.05
Capital	81.74	85.03	+ 0.10	2.31
High Income	50.29	52.31	+ 0.08	7.25
Top 50	55.65	57.79	+ 0.07	2.11

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD
0181 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	184.93	196.73†	- 0.16	4.67
Fixed & Convertible	41.12	43.74†	+ 0.21	6.65
Monthly Inc Plus	48.83	51.95†	+ 0.06	8.62
Preference Share	46.64	49.62†	+ 0.14	8.03
Balanced Funds				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Prd & F Inc	58.35	62.01	+ 0.12	5.97
Envrnmnl Opps	99.55	105.90†	+ 0.39	0.94
UK Smlr Cos #	67.70	72.02	+ 0.47	0.80
Extra Income Inc	47.56	50.59	+ 0.71	8.71

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0345 080 526

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American	177.60	188.40	+ 1.10	0.42
Convertibles #	22.97	24.41†		5.74
Equity Income #	143.30	152.30†	- 0.10	3.94
Eurofund	61.74	65.40	- 0.09	0.31
Financial	54.01	57.39	+ 0.03	1.57
Growth & Inc #	286.10	304.00		2.80
High Dist #	181.80	193.20	- 0.30	4.40
International	457.70	486.30	+ 0.30	0.06
Int Cap Inc	106.70	113.90†	+ 0.10	2.46
Latin American	31.61	33.59	+ 0.03	
Pacific	92.89	98.70	- 0.20	.
Pref High Inc	21.96	23.33†		7.87
Tokyo	347.30	282.60	- 1.10	
UK Smaller Cos	255.80	271.80	+ 1.70	1.10
Dunedin Unit Trusts				
European Gwth	329.60	348.00	- 0.40	0.61
New Asia	257.90	274.90	- 1.00	0.21
Japan Growth	120.90	128.60	+ 1.00	
Jap Smllr Co	492.20	524.10	+ 1.20	.
Nth Amer	396.70	419.60	+ 1.00	0.70
UK Inc & Gwth	248.40	264.90	+ 0.40	2.68

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 242 0242

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
BRI Dewsbr Dlgs	114.85	122.94	+ 0.73	1.06
Growth Acc	251.80	268.95	+ 1.74	0.72
Income	597.52	633.31	+ 8.80	4.92

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 373 7261

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Endurance Fd	228.90	243.50		0.99

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
01296 431 480

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European	93.52	98.44	- 0.14	1.88
Ethical Tst	50.20	52.84	+ 0.17	0.89
Far Eastern	337.21	354.98	+ 0.95	1.43
High Income	143.18	150.72	+ 0.07	4.80
UK Index Trckng	49.39	51.99	- 0.20	3.21
Intl Growth	143.39	150.94†	+ 0.28	0.27
North American	145.11	152.75	+ 0.70	1.45
Pelican	137.20	144.42†	- 0.43	3.10
Smaller Cos	73.67	77.55	+ 0.47	2.67
Special Sits	97.33	102.45	+ 0.72	2.57
Tst of Inv Tsts	213.67	224.92	+ 0.43	1.12

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Smaller Cos Inc	217.36	231.23†	+ 0.03	1.23
Smaller Cos Acc	387.34	412.06†	+ 1.47	1.23
Recovery	55.84	59.40	+ 0.18	1.42
Recovery Acc	57.20	60.85	+ 0.18	1.42

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
01392 412 144

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Capital Growth	86.41	92.68†	+ 0.72	.
Fd of Inv Tsts	52.05	55.52	+ 0.22	0.62
High Income #	37.58	40.29†	+ 0.17	11.42
Warrant	54.43	59.16†	+ 0.11	..
Zero Preference	41.93	44.49	+ 0.05	.

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
01273 220 707

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Family Asset Tst	89.22	94.91†	+0.580	2.59
United Charities	294.30	313.00†	+2.600	4.15

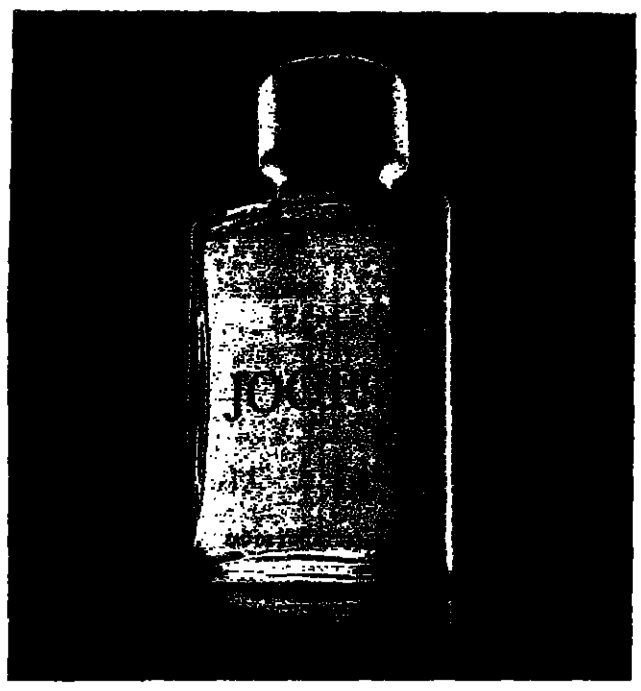
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
Callfree. Private Clients: 0800 414 161

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		5.50
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Inv	27.32	27.40†	+ 0.02	7.29
Intl Bond	29.89	31.01	+ 0.05	6.41
Income Funds				
High Income	25.75	27.04†	- 0.01	5.33
Income Plus	126.20	134.20	- 0.20	3.94
Amer Eq Inc	82.19	85.87	+ 0.54	1.94
European Income	48.60	51.68	+ 0.02	2.22
Far East Inc	68.77	73.13	+ 0.05	2.25
Global Convertible	25.68	27.34†	+ 0.14	2.56
UK Div Grth	30.24	32.18	- 0.07	2.11
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	76.08	81.16	+ 0.08	.
America	332.70	353.50	+ 3.30	.

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Sector Value Inc	100.90	106.40†	+ 0.20	4.00
Sector Value Gwth	101.80	107.40†	.	2.25
Hy 5 Europe	103.00	108.00	+ 0.30	1.85

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
0171 581 3020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
World Health	226.20	240.60	+ 6.20	.
Income #	206.25	219.46	+ 0.78	3.90
UK Growth	81.70	86.91	- 0.08	1.97
Intl Growth	90.08	95.82	+ 0.31	0.44
Ecology	103.59	110.20†	+ 0.39	0.98
European	183.58	195.29	+ 0.27	
Far Eastern	336.40	357.90	+ 1.30	



KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS
Dealers: 0171 956 7354

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	98.08	101.50†	+ 0.20	7.67
Gilt Yield	116.00	122.40†	- 0.80	8.94
Global Income	239.20	254.50	+ 0.90	3.40
High Yield	152.80	162.60†	+ 0.60	5.51
-do- Accum	491.40	522.80†	+ 1.70	5.51
Smllr Cos Div	61.57	65.50	+ 0.48	3.17
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	150.80	160.20	+ 1.10	
Asian Growth	375.40	399.40	+ 1.30	0.27
-do- Accum	441.20	469.40	+ 1.80	0.21
North American	107.40	114.30	+ 0.54	0.23
European Special	125.80	133.00	+ 0.70	0.09

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Growth	445.68	474.12†	+ 1.01	2.54
-do- Accum	604.89	643.48	+ 1.37	2.54
Special Sits Growth	26.48	28.17†	+ 0.16	1.89

MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD
01620 825867

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Fd #	1493.80	1514.20	.	2.90
Income #	1033.00	1049.60	.	4.00

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Maldon General	161.30	165.60†		3.65

For Manulife see Canada Life

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0800 363432

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
M & S Inv Pfolio	176.70	182.30		2.29
-do- Accum	207.40	213.80	.	2.29
UK Sel Pfolio	155.90	160.70	+ 0.10	2.52
-do- Accum	185.20	191.00	+ 0.10	2.52

MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD
01204 364 842

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	71.94	76.53†	.	3.95

MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0131 479 4646

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Income	83.86	89.04†	+ 0.70	3.77
European	104.60	111.00	+ 0.40	0.74
Income #	84.29	89.48	+ 0.65	4.33

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Special Sits	143.10	152.30	+ 0.90	1.43
-do- Accum	157.60	167.60	+ 0.90	1.43
Technology	741.90	789.20	- 17.90	
UK Blue Chip	86.05	91.54	- 0.38	2.96
-do- Accum	98.83	105.20	- 0.40	2.96

PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0181 478 3377 Client Enq: 0171 911 4490

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	46.32	48.01	+ 0.07	1.72
Cash Haven Inc	101.59	102.09	+ 0.01	4.89
Cash Haven Acc	116.79	117.37	+ 0.02	4.89
Dist Trust Inc	105.45	109.27	+ 0.11	6.35
Dist Trust Acc	116.74	120.97	+ 0.12	6.35
Global Growth	107.90	114.81	+ 0.09	1.17
Equity Inc	92.97	98.90	+ 0.16	4.42
Equity	861.96	916.97	- 0.23	2.38
European	267.15	276.83	+ 0.54	0.77
High Income	92.94	98.87	- 0.04	5.29
Intl Gth	228.38	242.95	+ 0.68	0.83
Intl Sm Co	98.66	104.95	+ 0.16	0.64
Japanese	239.95	248.65	+ 0.41	
Nth Amer	238.75	247.40	+ 1.24	1.25
Pacific Mkts	128.70	133.36	+ 0.12	0.63
Premier Inc	47.80	49.54	+ 0.08	6.66
Sm Cos	111.75	118.88	+ 0.62	1.35
Spec Sits	128.01	136.18	- 0.12	2.55
UK Growth	146.16	155.48	- 0.10	2.29

RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD
01892 510 033

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British Life	340.00	360.60	+ 0.60	3.18

ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT
Dealers: 0171 623 1000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FA America (Inc)	664.80	706.71	+ 5.91	0.30
FA America (Acc)	777.51	826.00	+ 6.79	0.30
FA UK Equity Inc	184.42	197.08	+ 1.09	3.30
FA Japan	262.25	279.04	+ 0.72	
FA Major UK Cos	114.09	121.60	+ 0.16	1.68
FA Smllr UK Cos	368.09	400.31†	+ 2.78	0.87
FA European	411.28	436.56	+ 0.39	0.30
FA Amer Smllr Cos	60.04	64.08	+ 0.53	
FA Asia	60.68	65.25	+ 0.01	
FA Jap Smllr Cos	47.01	50.23	- 0.30	
RAM Personal Pension				
UK Major Cos	119.73	126.02	+ 0.17	
UK Smlr Cos	108.31	114.00	- 0.79	
UK Income	118.32	124.54	- 0.70	
America	134.03	141.07	+ 1.15	.
Japanese	58.02	61.07	+ 0.16	
European	132.66	139.63	+ 0.12	
Gilt	96.09	101.14	+ 0.22	
Deposit	88.50	93.16	+ 0.02	
Managed	116.82	122.95	+ 1.75	
RAM FSAVC Scheme				
UK Major Cos	116.40	122.52	+ 0.16	
UK Smaller Cos	105.61	111.16	+ 0.22	
UK Income	115.24	121.30	+ 0.68	
America	130.24	137.09	+ 1.14	
Japanese	56.38	59.34	+ 0.16	
European	129.05	135.83	+ 0.12	

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Equity Inc	324.30	345.10	- 0.10	2.10
-do- Accum	419.80	446.60	- 0.10	2.10
UK Sr Co Eq Inc	269.80	287.10	+ 1.40	1.27
-do- Accum	330.10	351.20	+ 1.80	1.27
Select Equity Inc	85.40	91.34†	- 0.06	1.64
Income Plus Inc	92.08	97.33†	+ 0.10	3.44
European Inc	431.20	458.80†	- 0.60	0.88
-do- Accum	491.90	523.30†	- 0.70	0.88
Far Eastern Inc	201.30	214.20†	+ 0.20	0.81
-do- Accum	232.00	246.90†	+ 0.20	0.81
Japanese Inc	67.62	71.94†	+ 0.24	.
Nth American Inc	319.30	339.70†	+ 2.30	0.12
-do- Accum	353.00	375.50†	+ 2.30	0.12

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Growth Inc	241.80	257.30	+ 0.50	0.75
Wrlde Venture Inc	96.70	102.90†	+ 0.40	1.02

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT
0131 668 3724

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Inc	434.50	463.40	.	2.32
-do- Accum	659.50	702.70		2.32
UK High Inc	205.50	219.20		3.35
-do- Accum	313.30	334.10	..	3.35
Europe Inc	474.30	505.70		0.59
Nth Amer Inc	312.40	333.10		
Global Inc	264.90	282.50		0.27
Global Acc	285.30	304.30		0.27
UK Spec Sits Inc	124.50	132.80	.	1.85
South East Asia	271.10	289.10		0.18
Cash Trust Inc	101.60	101.60		6.00
UK Smlr Cos Inc	123.30	131.40		1.62
-do- Accum	128.30	136.80		1.62
Intl Bond Inc	97.85	103.80		6.20

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European	158.50	166.80	- 0.10	0.64
Nth American	141.60	149.30	+ 1.90	0.04
Intl Guntd & Conv	129.60	136.40	- 0.30	6.55
Pooled Pension (£)	239.60	248.00	+ 3.40	1.93
Smaller Cos	109.60	116.40	+ 0.90	0.79
UK General	162.10	170.60	+ 0.60	2.33
Far Eastern	110.40	116.20		

SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD
0171 626 6226

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Gth Fund ‡	129.10	†	+ 1.32	
Asian ‡	68.36	†	- 0.31	
European ‡	163.84	†	+ 0.18	0.75
Global Bond ‡	30.66	†	+ 0.11	6.55
Investment Trust ‡	113.62	†	- 0.30	1.91
Preferred Income ‡	106.95	†	- 0.13	5.56
Samurai ‡	62.35	†	+ 0.02	
Sterling Reserve ‡	100.24	†	+ 0.01	6.09
UK Growth ‡	110.42	†	- 0.04	2.26
Tai Pan ‡	113.98	†	- 0.09	
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	112.90	†	- 0.35	2.69
UK Equity Inc ‡	114.22	†	+ 0.11	5.27
Euro Gwth PEP	77.56	82.51	+ 0.41	1.19
Pref Inc PEP #	103.80	109.60†	+ 0.20	5.50
Inv Trust PEP	57.82	61.51	+ 1.27	

SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS
0171 637 5377

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American	450.50	476.70	+ 1.10	
Capital	148.30	158.70	- 0.60	1.48
Cash	100.35	100.35†		5.36
European	162.80	172.30	- 0.10	0.94
Far Eastern	177.30	187.60	+ 0.70	
Growth	165.30	174.90	+ 1.60	0.81
Income #	137.90	145.90†	+ 1.60	4.59
Magnum	159.20	170.50†	+ 0.70	1.44
Smllr Scos	518.80	548.90†	+ 4.10	0.27
Thoroughbred	185.60	198.80†	+ 0.60	1.13

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.7694	0.7795	+0.0001	
Gilt Income	50.95	53.03†	+ 0.07	6.60
Gilt Growth	75.20	78.27	+ 0.13	...
Sterling Bond	48.64	50.45	+ 0.06	6.90

WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0181 298 4000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Mgd	57.20	60.65	- 0.06	1.40
UK Stockmarket	99.60	105.90	- 0.25	2.26
Corporate Bond	47.67	49.10	- 0.22	6.71

Source: Finstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend. ‡ Middle price. . No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital; @ Exit Charge

End the delay over this tragic lesson

The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

It is now almost 11 years since a British Airtours Boeing 737 caught fire on the runway at Manchester airport with the loss of 54 lives. It is also eight years since an investigation into the accident delivered a number of recommendations for preventing it happening again.

Yet only now is one of the main points being considered by international safety regulators and it could be another two years before it is put into effect.

Many of those who survived the terrible accident reported that they were wedged by the press of people in the narrow passageway between the forward galleys, unable to get out quickly.

The Air Accident Investigation Branch of the Department of Transport urged the Civil Aviation Authority to commission research into the problem and scientists at Cranfield University were asked to help.

They discovered that the configuration used by some airlines did indeed impede easy escape in the event of an emergency, and they therefore suggested that the minimum aisle width between the galleys in all aircraft should be increased from 22 inches to 30 inches.

But the research did not investigate the cost of such changes to the airline industry. The CAA has, it says, to look after the well-being of the British airline industry as a whole as well as the safety of passengers.

By now the European Union was harmonising for all it was worth, including aviation safety standards. So the CAA passed its findings to the European Joint Aviation Authorities, known as the JAA. It decided that more research was necessary and it is about to issue a consultation paper — albeit a preliminary one — within the next two months on the economic impact of increasing the minimum width from 22 to 30 inches.

The JAA has apparently decided that if these new standards were introduced for all new aircraft they "would not be prohibitive" largely because all the new jets coming into service already surpass them. But it also believes that the cost would be prohibitive to existing aircraft because galleys would have to be replaced or extensively modified.

So any new rule will apply only to new jets and not to the existing fleet and may not come into force until the end of 1997 at the earliest.

Further complications, say the bureaucrats, are caused by the huge number of aircraft which already have gangways wider than their proposed new minimum width and the fact that American safety experts have decided that they are not going to impose any such standards. In view of this, they argue, there will have to be more international consultation.

Millions of British holidaymakers are about to make what, for many, is their first flight of the year, perhaps of their lives. The experts may scoff at their fears, but many of them are anxious and apprehensive.

As has been said of the "mad cow" disease scare, it is sometimes necessary to do things because the arguments have gone "beyond the science". To the scientists and the European bureaucrats, the need for action on the width of the forward aisles on older jets may seem arcane, fraught with problems and even unnecessary. But to many passengers, and especially to the Manchester survivors, it is a priority.

To judge by the continuing vacillation and delay, they are beginning to believe that the drive towards European, and even worldwide, harmonisation of standards simply provides an excuse for more meetings, consultations and obfuscation.

The CAA should introduce the new rule now, if only to appear to be taking the side of the passenger. The rest of Europe, and if necessary the United States, can catch up later.

SPECTRUM

Call of the wild: but the number of visitors who want to see these animals means that trips may have to be rationed

Halting the hordes

By Tony Dawe

A TOURISM policy which will eventually lead to the "rationing" of visitors was announced by the Tanzanian Government yesterday, underlying its determination to prevent the country's famous sites from becoming damaged by too many tourists.

When the annual number of visitors reaches 500,000, which is expected by the year 2000 if current trends continue, the Government plans to "put on the brakes", Juma Ngasongwa, the Tourism Minister, told a meeting in London.

As part of the policy, the Government is introducing a moratorium on the development of hotels and lodges serving the Serengeti National Park and on the rim of the Ngorongoro volcanic crater.

Instead, it is launching a £100 million five-year programme, with help from the World Bank and European Union, to boost lesser known areas by providing more tourist facilities and better roads.

The decision follows an announcement by the Kenya Wildlife Service that it, too, is to urge tourists to explore remote parts of the country to avoid the Masai Mara, Amboseli and Tsavo national parks being saturated.

"We want to avoid overcrowding of our 'northern circuit' including the Serengeti, Ngorongoro and Mount Kilimanjaro and encourage visitors to explore the larger and wilder reserves of the south," Dr Ngasongwa said. "These are being developed as adventure safaris with tented camps and small lodges instead of huge concrete hotels."

The policy also involves developing coastal, cultural and historical tourism and includes plans to turn Bagamoyo, the small town north of Tanzania's capital Dar es Salaam used by slave-traders, into a major centre by extending the Livingstone Museum and creating a new school of tribal art. Caves with prehistoric paintings and the gorge where early human remains were found will also be made more accessible and tourist-friendly.

"Most of these archaeological sites have been neglected, but under the new tourism plan they will be properly preserved with new tourist information centres," Dr Ngasongwa said.

Hatim Karimjee, chairman of Tanzania's Tourist Board, added: "Our problem is not promoting tourism but controlling it. If we don't, we shall be overtaken by mass tourism.

"When we reach the optimum number, we shall aim to maintain that level by encouraging visitors to stay longer and to partake in special interest holidays, like game fishing and bird-watching."

FERRY BARGAINS

Fast and furious to Dieppe

STENA Line is offering special fares to mark the debut of a fast ferry catamaran on its Newhaven-Dieppe route. A car and five passengers costs £30 for a day-return, £59 for three days, for travel by April 30. Details: 0990 707070.

☐ RED Funnel introduced its latest ship, *Red Eagle*, on services between Southampton and Cowes yesterday. A special fare to the Isle of Wight is available this weekend — £20 for a car and four passengers, valid for day trips on Saturday or Sunday or out Saturday, back Sunday. Details: 01703 330333.

☐ SEA France has extended its offer on Dover-Calais sailings until the end of April. The new French-owned ferry company is quoting £50 for a five-day return for a car and up to nine passengers, £100 for standard returns. Details: 01304 204204.

☐ BRITTANY Ferries has 16-day returns to Santander, Spain, from Plymouth for £99 for a car and occupants, or a three-day trip for £39 per person to include cabin berth. Details: 0990 360360.

☐ EURODRIVE has a number of offers on *Le Shuttle* from Folkestone valid until the end of April, including a five-day return per car for £49 travelling out between 9pm and 5am, returning any time. Details: 0181-324 4040.

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Granada raises hotel prices

By David Churchill

GRANADA Group, the leisure and television company, last week sharply increased the prices for its 137 budget Travelodge hotels in the UK for the second time since acquiring the chain in its £3.8 billion takeover of Forte in January.

The company then followed this up, on Monday, by raising the price of the 78-strong Posthouse mid-market chain. Hotels such as the Peterborough and Birmingham airport are increasing their daily rate from £59 to £69 a night with other bands in the chain going up to £79, £89 and £99 a night.

The rises were foreshadowed during the bitter takeover battle with Forte but the scale of the increases has come as a surprise to many in the hotel industry.

Though current occupancy levels are strong, some hoteliers fear that the market may have peaked; most of Granada's competitors have decided against raising prices.

In February, Granada increased the room rate for Travelodge from £34.50 to £36.50 and last week raised it again to £39.95 for most of its regional hotels, and £42.95 for hotels in big towns and cities.

Granada says its research "indicated that we have been underpriced for some time, and we have now decided to correct this".

Its rival Whitbread, which has 119 budget Travel Inn hotels, says it will not raise prices above the present £35.50 a room. Whitbread says: "We have looked long and hard at the Granada move and decided we do not need to raise our prices further."

Peter Stephenson, managing director of Granada's UK Hotels, says that the rates have been increased "because we are operating close to capacity at the moment" and because Forte had made big investments in hotels in recent years.

But rival mid-market chains, such as Queens Moat Houses and Hilton National, are said to have no immediate plans to to raise prices.

Some observers believe that Granada is more interested in increasing its cashflow from the hotels it acquired in the short term rather than in pricing its rooms according to long-term market needs.

The strength of hotel occupancy at present is also shown by the latest surveys for London from Pannell Kerr Forster (PKF), a hotel consultancy. It reports that room rates last year rose by 11.6 per cent on average to reach £83.92 and occupancy levels were 83 per cent. This year PKF forecasts an 85 per cent average occupancy level in London hotels. In a report on Welsh hotels it says occupancy last year reached the highest level for five years.

A Katyusha rocket fired from Lebanon by Hezbollah fighters blows up a car in Kiryat Shmona in northern Israel

BA cancels Beirut flight

By Tony Dawe

BRITISH Airways cancelled yesterday's London-Beirut flight, tours to Lebanon's historic sites have been abandoned and holidays to the Holy Land disrupted as Israel continued its offensive against alleged terrorist targets in Lebanon.

Airlines and tour operators are making decisions day-by-day about services and holidays to the Middle East but admit that many customers have cancelled and that the recent increase in tourism to the region is being slowed.

The only positive news yesterday came from British Mediterranean Airways, set up last year under its chairman Lord Hesketh to take advantage of the rise in demand for travel to Beirut, Damascus and Amman. None of its five weekly services has been cancelled because most passengers are Lebanese people returning home.

The Foreign Office says that "travel south of Beirut is inadvisable" and the British Embassy in Beirut has told tour operators to keep clear of the Bekaa Valley and the Baalbeck area, both strongholds of Hezbollah, but containing some of the most important Middle East archaeological remains.

Leading holiday companies are pulling visitors out of Lebanon and cancelling future trips. Jim Harris, director of Jasmin Tours, said a six-day Highlights of Lebanon tour due to leave London yesterday had been cancelled. He was watching the situation closely before making a decison about the next tours. Visits to Baalbeck, included in Syrian-based holidays, are also being cancelled. Thomson, which takes 10,000 British holidaymakers to Israel every year, has cancelled its weekly coach tours through the country and mini-cruises from Cyprus which included visits to the Holy Land. But it is continuing with its programme to Eilat.

Labour reviews tourist tax

By Roger Bray

TOURISTS taking holidays in Britain pay a higher proportion of their costs in VAT than in any other European country except Sweden. The tax adds almost £400 to the cost of a typical two-week break for a family of four.

These figures will loom large in talks between the tourism industry and the Labour Party during the next few months. Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, this week promised that Labour would listen to arguments for lower VAT on the tourist industry. He would make no commitment to cut the rate from 17.5 per cent, but he said Labour was reviewing corporate taxation — and the issue would be firmly on the agenda.

A question to be thrashed out during talks with tourism representatives is whether, if the tax is reduced, it should be made lower only for hoteliers and other providers of accommodation, or also for restaurants and attractions.

Research by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu International suggests that after four years, cutting the rate to 8 per cent on accommodation would lose the Government only £340 million in VAT annually, but that the additional £1.8 billion spent by tourists in Britain as a result could create 38,000 jobs. The overall impact of this would be to generate more money for the Exchequer. A similar reduction throughout the industry would cut the tax take by almost £2.3 billion a year over the same period, raise spending by more than £4 billion and create 87,000 jobs. The overall effect would be a reduction in tax receipts but a huge boost for the economy.

● British holidaymakers spend more on holiday than they budget for and are reluctant to carry too much cash when travelling, according to a survey by Audience Selection for Europay, which trades as Mastercard in Europe. Most Britons use credit cards to cover unexpected extra purchases.

Orlando offers special prices to beat Disney

By David Churchill

ORLANDO theme parks are banding together to offer a five-day unlimited admission to all three non-Disney parks — Universal Studios, Sea World and Wet 'n' Wild — for the price of about one day's admission.

The ticket will cost about £63 for adults and £51 for children. In addition Orlando is offering free shuttle transport from certain hotels to the theme parks.

This special five-day pass is part of an attempt by Orlando's theme parks to stave off the growing dominance of Walt Disney World in attracting both American and international tourists. Many Orlando theme park operators believe they are missing out on Florida's tourism boom — and visitors from the UK are up by 25 per cent so far this year — because tourists find it too expensive to visit the other parks as well as the better-known Disney.

A five-day Disney pass, giving unlimited access to its three main theme parks, three water parks and night-time entertainment complex, costs about £124 for adults and £99 for children aged under 10.

Orlando's special ticket to its three parks will not, however, be sold in the UK and will be available only at the gates to its parks. Several British ticket operators, such as Keith Prowse and Ticketshop USA, argue that the five-day pass does not offer such exceptional value as at first appears.

This is because few tourists, they believe, would want to visit Sea World and Universal Studios every day for five days. They believe it better to buy tickets in advance in Britain, so as to avoid having to meet the extra costs when abroad.

But the Universal/Sea World ticket deal is seen by tour operators to Florida as one of the best bargains of the year. "Universal and Sea World must be getting really worried about Disney's success if they feel the need to offer such a good deal," said one specialist operator.

Disney has spent heavily on advertising and other promotions this year, including a free 20-minute video which has been sent to more than 900,000 British households showing what Disney World has to offer.

Barcelona or Nice for £49

THE "no frills" airline revolution that has started in America is about to take wing in Europe, *Roger Bray writes.* EasyJet, the cut-price operator that began by flying between Luton and Scotland only, plans to launch two £49 one-way services, to Nice and Barcelona in June.

Easyjet is pitched mainly at the leisure market, although it may appeal to business travellers who, according to a MORI survey for Carlson, a travel agency, are willing to use small airlines for short flights. EasyJet's present destinations are Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen at prices from £40 one-way, including the £5 air passenger's duty.

EasyJet takes credit and charge card payments by phone, or by cheque or cash at airport counters, and does not issue tickets to customers.

A wing and a prayer

By Steve Keenan

BRITAIN's biggest holiday company is recruiting more clergymen to preach at its overseas resorts next winter.

Eight more chaplains will join the 32 already based in Spain and other holiday hotspots sold by Thomson Holidays. This winter a record 2.6 million Britons fled the cold in search of sunshine.

And Thomson — which sells three out of ten holidays — expects a new record next winter. Its larger flock of 40 clergymen will hold a total of 1,000 Sunday services, with resident parsons in seven of popular holiday areas.

The new chaplains will be based in Cyprus and Portugal. Others already work in the Costa del Sol, Costa Blanca, Majorca, Tenerife and Tunisia. "We call them the flying vicars," said a Thomson spokesman. "The chaplains based in the popular resorts travel across their regions to preach."

The clergymen are members of the Inter-Continental Church Society, a non-denominational society.

BARGAINS OF THE WEEK

HOLIDAYS

SIMPLY Tuscany & Umbria is offering special "villa only" prices of £140 per week for a one bedroom villa and £200 per week for a two bedroom villa from April 27 to May 18. Package prices including flights and car hire start from £264 per person. Details: 0181-995 8277.

☐ A THREE-night cookery break from next Thursday is available at Hotel Le Monastère in northern France for £235 per person including dinner, bed and breakfast and Dover-Calais ferry crossings, from Inntravel Shortbreaks. Details: 01653 628862

☐ THE GAMBIA Experience is offering free upgrades to premium rooms in a luxury beach hotel for bookings made before April 30. Prices start from £377 for a week's bed and breakfast accommodation and return flights from Gatwick on Fridays. Details: 01703 730888.

☐ A FORTNIGHT's self-catering Twentys holiday in Ibiza for £188 with departure from Gatwick on May 4 is among late offers to the Mediterranean from Co-op Travelcare. Details: 0161-827 1030.

☐ SELF-CATERING for a fortnight in Corfu for £199 with departure from Birmingham on May 5 is among late offers from Cosmos. Details: 0161-480 5799.

☐ SAVINGS of £110 per person on holidays to Kenya are available from British Airways Holidays for departures up to May 30. Prices for a fortnight's beach-cum-safari holiday now start at £1225. Details: 01293 723161.

☐ IN CONTRAST, Arctic Experience is offering a five-night spring break in Iceland with adventurous day trips from £494 per person until the end of May. Details: 01737 218800.

☐ LE SPORT all-inclusive hotel in St Lucia is available for £1,499 per person for a fortnight between May 19 and June 23, a saving of £360, from Tropical Places, with flights from Gatwick. Details: 01342 825123.

☐ FLORIDA for a fortnight for £429 per adult, a saving of £150, with half price for children under 16 is this week's offer from ARTAC WorldChoice travel agents and Virgin Holidays. The offer, available from May 31 to June 27, includes Gatwick-Miami flights and accommodation in Orlando. Details: 0500 757737.

HOTELS

THE four-star Chelsea Hotel in Knightsbridge, close to Harrods, has a special weekend rate of £99 per night for a single room and £110 for the double for the two May Bank Holiday weekends. This represents a saving of £78 a night on the normal rate. Details: 0171-838 9650.

☐ WHITE'S Hotel in Gibraltar has a three-night break for £199 per person, including air fares, until the end of May. The 126-room four-star hotel is located in the heart of the city. Details: 01993 700600.

☐ BROWN'S Hotel in London's Albemarle Street is offering a special St George's Day menu in its restaurant next Tuesday, at £24.50 for three courses, to celebrate its long links with the patron saint of England. In 1889 it acquired the neighbouring St George's Hotel and a stained glass window featuring St George slaying the dragon can still be seen in the hotel bar. Details: 0171-493 6020.

☐ STAY at the Stifford Moat House in Essex at the special rate of £32 per person per night to watch the Thurrock International Kite Festival over the May Day weekend. Teams from all over Europe will compete for the £1,500 first prize. Details: 01708 719988.

☐ LUXURY bed and breakfast accommodation is available at a house in Hyde Park Gate, London, the newest B&B to join the Uptown Reservation service. Prices start at £55 single and £70 double per night, including a private bathroom and continental breakfast. Details: 0171-351 3445.

☐ STAKIS Hotels has published a leisure break brochure featuring short holidays at the company's 45 UK properties, including its new hotels at Balmoral, Aberdeen and Tyneside. Details: 0990 969696.

☐ THE Copthorne Hotel in Hanover, Germany, has a special rate of £49 per night for British guests visiting the Hanover Fair in June in which more than 10,000 people take part. The rate includes transfers to the fair and an evening meal in the main fairground marquee. Details: 0800 414741.

FLIGHTS

THE Air France wholesaler Brightways is offering a special fare to New York via Paris. A round-trip price of £2,338 covers subsonic business class flights going out and Concorde on the return. Details: 0800 919171.

☐ AIR China is offering promotional first and business-class fares on its twice-weekly Heathrow-Peking service. Business round trips cost £988 as against the British Airways price of £2,036, while first class costs £1,767 compared with no less than £4,781 flying BA. Details: 0171-630 0919.

☐ THAI International currently has Supersaver excursions to Bangkok and other domestic destinations. Bangkok return costs £495 with flights to the resort of Phuket or the northern city of Chiangmai, available for £545. Details: 0171-499 9113.

☐ SABENA has some attractive business-class bonus fares for regional passengers flying to Europe via Brussels. Manchester-Munich return, for example, costs £460 while Glasgow-Bordeaux is offered at £514 — savings of about 15 per cent on normal rates. Details: 0181-780 1444.

☐ SWISS airline Crossair has launched a direct Edinburgh-Zurich service with an introductory fare of £199. Details: 0345 581333.

☐ THIS summer British Airways is serving another six destinations from Gatwick — flights to Zurich and Stockholm have just started, and Edinburgh begins next month, Kiev follows in June while Phoenix and San Diego come online in July. Details: 0345 222111.

☐ EUROSTAR is providing stiffer competition to the airlines between London, Paris and Brussels. Sales of its off-season rail fares — starting at £59 standard and £155 first class — have been extended until mid-July. Details: 0345 881881.

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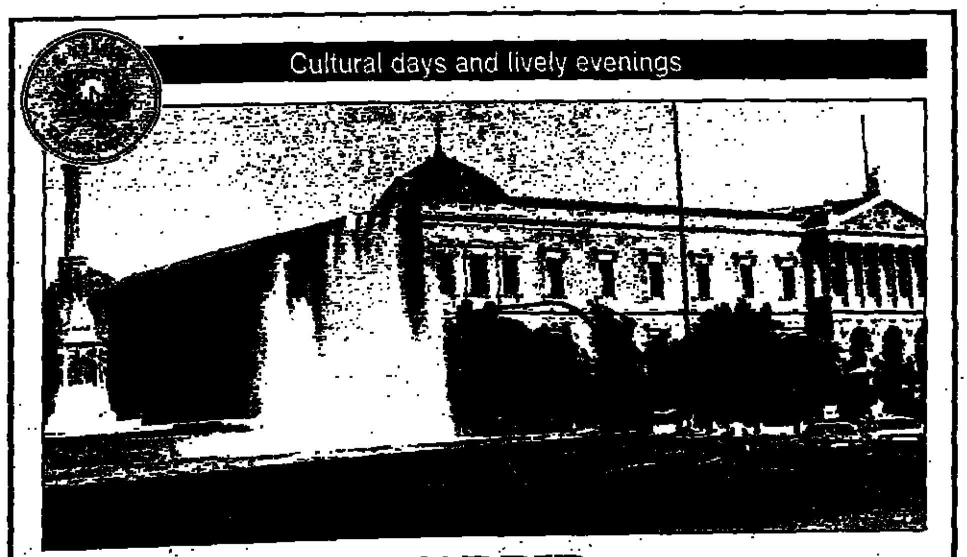

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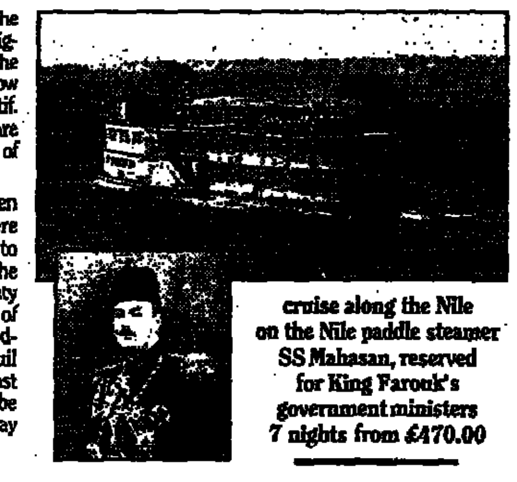

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cruise along the Nile on the Nile paddle steamer SS Mahasan, reserved for King Farouk's government ministers 7 nights from £470.00

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

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Law Report April 18 1996 Court of Appeal

Whether action should be struck out because of plaintiff's delay

Shtun v Zaljejska

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Hobhouse

[Judgment March 28]

In considering whether an action should be struck out because of the plaintiff's inordinate and inexcusable delay, and in determining whether the defendant had suffered prejudice through the impairment of witnesses' recollections as a result of delay, the court had to examine with care all the evidence in the case.

In some cases a court would be entitled to draw inferences of prejudice even in the absence of evidence of the particular respects in which a witness's memory was impaired: but every case turned on its own facts.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the defendant, Urszula Zaljejska, from an order of Mr D. K. Oliver, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division on May 20, 1994, in which he reinstated an action against her by the plaintiff, Musij Shtun, which Master Barrett had previously dismissed for want of prosecution.

In October 1984 the plaintiff issued a writ against the defendant claiming a declaration that the defendant held a hotel property, purchased in 1978, on trust for him absolutely. In April 1985 the defendant served her defence and counterclaim, claiming that the plaintiff had given her the property at the time of purchase. Pleadings closed in July 1985, the plaintiff issued a summons for directions in December 1986 and the defendant finally served complete further and better particulars in January 1988.

The plaintiff set down the action in April 1988. In November 1989, the defendant served her list of documents and the plaintiff served his list in February 1990. On May 4, 1993 the plaintiff served notice of intention to proceed and on September 9, 1993 the defendant applied to strike out the action. The only evidence of prejudice to the defendant as a result of the plaintiff's delay was the affidavit evidence of her solicitor, which stated:

"There is a substantial risk that it will not be possible to have a fair trial of the issues . . . the dispute . . . [concerned] a number of issues relating to the agreement made between the plaintiff and the defendant as to the ownership of the property. These matters relate to, in the main, oral agreement, although there is some documentation available."

Mr Paul Rippon for the defendant; Mr John Chapman for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said that the deputy judge was tempted to take the view that the delay and the necessity of oral evidence was such as would justify dismissal of the action, but he considered himself bound by the Court of Appeal in *Hornagold v Fairclough Building Ltd* (*The Times* June 3, 1993; [1993] PIQR 400), where Lord Justice Roch said that there had to be more than a bald assertion that the delay had prejudiced the defendant.

Mr Rippon submitted that the deputy judge's reliance on *Hornagold* was misplaced and his decision should be reversed.

The following propositions of law were now uncontroversial:

1 Where there had been no contumelious conduct by the plaintiff, the court, if it was to strike out an action for want of prosecution, had to be satisfied (a) that there had been inordinate and inexcusable delay by the plaintiff or his lawyers; and (b) that such delay would give rise to a substantial risk that it was not possible to have a fair trial of the issues in the action or was such as was likely to cause or to have caused serious prejudice to the defendants either as between themselves and the plaintiff, as between each other, or between themselves and a third party: *Birkett v James* ([1978] AC 297, 318) per Lord Diplock.

2 It was the delay after the issue of proceedings which had to be shown to have caused such risk of prejudice (ibid p322).

3 Where the plaintiff delayed in issuing proceedings and by further delay caused prejudice, the additional prejudice that had to be shown to justify dismissal of the action need not be great but it had to be more than minimal (ibid p323).

4 Once the plaintiff was guilty of further delay the prejudice caused by the totality of the periods of his delay could be looked at: *Roebuck v Mungovin* ([1994] 2 AC 224, 234) per Lord Browne-Wilkinson.

5 The prejudice might take a variety of forms, but one important form was the impairment of witnesses' memories. Another consisted of the prejudice to the defendant through having a serious claim hanging over him: *Biss v Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Area Health Authority (Teaching)* ([1978] 1 WLR 382, 389). But the courts should only in exceptional cases treat the anxiety which accompanied all litigation as alone being sufficient to justify dismissing the action: *Department of Transport v Chris Smaller (Transport) Ltd* ([1989] AC 1197, 1209, 1210) per Lord Griffiths.

6 Save in exceptional cases an action would not be struck out for want of prosecution before the expiry of the relevant limitation period: *Birkett v James* (at p321).

Lord Griffiths in *Smaller* (at p1203G) was not intending to depart from *Birkett v James* in any way. The House of Lords in that case specifically upheld the principles in *Birkett v James*.

Nor was there anything in *Birkett v James* to suggest that Lord Salmon or Lord Diplock recanted from what they had earlier said in *Allen v Sir Alfred McAlpine and Sons Ltd* ([1968] 2 QB 229, 260 and 272). The principles in *Allen* received the approval of the House of Lords in that case.

What was the subject of more controversy was the evidence needed to justifiy the dismissal of an action on the ground of the impairment of witnesses' recollections.

His Lordship considered the following cases: *Electricity Supply Nominees Ltd v Longstaff and Shaw Ltd* ((1986) 3 Constr LJ 183, 187) per Lord Justice Mustill, referred to in *Hornagold* at p407; *Leniston v Phipps* (unreported, CA Transcript No 88/387), per Lord Justice Stuart-Smith (at p14) with whom Lord Justice Croom-Johnson agreed; *Benoit v Haringey London Borough Council* (unreported, CA Transcript No 91/0116), in which Lord Justice Nourse agreed with Lord Justice Stuart-Smith; *Smaller* per Lord Griffiths at p1208; *Trill v Sacher* ([1993] 1 WLR 1379, 1399) per Lord Justice Neill, in particular principles 11 to 14 there set out.

In *Hornagold* Mr Justice Schiemann dismissed a personal injury action for want of prosecution. The evidence before him included affidavits stating that unspecified witnesses would have difficulties of recollection.

In the Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Roch, referring to *Leniston*, *Benoit*, the *Electricity Supply* case and *Smaller*, said (at p409) that to succeed in striking out an action a defendant had to produce some evidence from which serious prejudice could be inferred. He held that because the defendant did not identify the particular witnesses or the particular respects in which their evidence was impaired, prejudice could not be inferred and he allowed the appeal.

Lord Justice Glidewell, while agreeing in the result, expressed himself differently (at pp414 and 417). Lord Justice Roch accepted that inferences could be drawn but he required greater specificity in evidence than did Lord Justice Glidewell. Unfortunately, the deputy judge in the present case was referred only to *Hornagold* in *The Times* which gave extracts of Lord Justice Roch's judgment and only said of Lord Justice Glidewell that he gave a concurring judgment.

In *Roebuck v Mungovin* Lord Browne-Wilkinson, with whom all the other law lords agreed, considered *Hornagold* (at p234) and plainly rejected Lord Justice Roch's views on the necessity to adduce specific evidence that prejudice flowed from loss of memory in a particular period.

He also stated in clear terms that the court could draw inferences from a loss of recollection for any substantial period of delay and that it would be artificial to allocate prejudice to one rather than another period.

On the authority of *Roebuck*, the Court of Appeal had subsequently been prepared to infer prejudice from loss of recollection through the passage of time having regard to the particular circumstances of the case even in the absence of specific evidence of particular respects in which memories had dimmed: see, for example, *In re Manlon Trading Co Ltd* ([1995] 3 WLR 839, 848 and 852).

On the authorities there were differences in emphasis between what was said by Lord Justice Roch in *Hornagold*, Lord Justice Waite in *Rowe v Glenister* (*The Times* August 7, 1995; CA Transcript No 95/964) and Lord Justice Auld in *Slade v Adco Ltd* (*The Times* December 7, 1995; CA Transcript No 95/1779) on the one hand, and what was said by Lord Justice Stuart-Smith in *Leniston* and *Benoit*, Lord Justice Glidewell in *Hornagold*, Lord Browne-Wilkinson in *Roebuck v Mungovin* and Sir Iain Glidewell and Lord Justice Neill in *Slade v Adco Ltd* on the other hand.

But all the judges were agreed that in appropriate circumstances inferences could be drawn. Each case, as Lord Justice Neill said in *Slade v Adco Ltd*, had to turn on its own particular facts. *Rowe v Glenister* on its particular facts was not determinative of the outcome of the present appeal on its different facts.

In order to determine whether a defendant had suffered the necessary prejudice in the form of the impairment of witnesses' recollections as a result of inordinate and inexcusable post-writ delay, the court had to examine with care all the evidence including both the affidavit evidence and evidence of the issues disclosed by the pleadings.

Evidence of the particular respects in which a potential witness's memory was impaired was not essential in every case, still less had it to be shown that such failing of memory commenced in a particular period.

The deputy judge misdirected himself in considering himself bound by what was then reported of Lord Justice Roch's judgment in *Hornagold*. But for that he would have acted differently.

In the circumstances the court was entitled to exercise its own discretion. Having regard to the issues and the oral evidence required to resolve them, to the prejudice likely to have been caused through the four-year delay before the issue of proceedings and to the plaintiff's inordinate and inexcusable delay since the issue of the writ, it was possible to draw the inference of more than minimal prejudice to the defendant as a result of that delay.

Accordingly, the appeal would be allowed.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE, concurring with Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Neill, said that the case vividly illustrated the excessive intrusion of authority into the decision of factual questions. The legal criteria were those in *Birkett v James*, confirmed in *Smaller*.

The deputy judge considered that he was constrained from drawing an inference of prejudice by the newspaper report, published eleven months earlier, in *Hornagold*. His Lordship deplored that approach to binding authority. The judge was misled. A reference to the full text of the judgments delivered would have avoided the error.

The judge was led to believe that the only way a court could be satisfied that the substantial risk existed was by specific affidavit evidence expressly particularising the risk. That was not and never had been the law. It confused comments made in individual cases about the evidence in those cases with propositions of law.

Such comments were not statements of law and were no more than guidance upon the appropriate judicial approach to the evaluation of evidence and the reaching of factual decisions and assistance in the reaching of consistent decisions in similar cases.

Each case turned on its own facts and whether or not in any given case it was appropriate to draw the inference depended upon all the circumstances in that case.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL concurring, said that in *Birkett v James* the House of Lords set out two preconditions for the exercise of the discretionary power to strike out for want of prosecution: (i) that the plaintiff had been guilty of inordinate and inexcusable delay; and (ii) that such delay gave rise to a substantial risk that it was not possible to have a fair trial or was likely to cause or had caused serious prejudice to the defendant.

In respect of the second precondition each case depended on its own facts but the factors to be taken into account in evaluating the defendant's case included: (i) the issues; (ii) the evidence which was or was likely to be available and how far that would be oral or documentary; (iii) the time elapsed since the relevant events; (iv) the degree of prejudice suffered or likely to have been suffered in the pre-writ period; (v) the period of inordinate and inexcusable delay; and (vi) the degree of prejudice caused or likely to have been caused by the inordinate and inexcusable delay.

Pre-writ delay could not be relied on but if the writ was issued late the additional prejudice need not be great compared to that which had occurred before the writ was issued.

Most of those factors would also be relevant where it was said that there was a substantial risk that it was not possible to have a fair trial.

In many cases the resolution of the issues would depend on oral testimony. Sometimes the defendant would be able to show that a witness had died or become too infirm to give evidence or had disappeared. But there would be cases where the proper assessment of the defendant's position and the nature and degree of any prejudice would not depend primarily on the absence of witnesses but on all the circumstances of the case.

The defendant had to explain his position and establish prejudice. He had to explain how the relevant delay would affect his case and the resolution of the issues.

The judge had to assess the likely effect on the trial and on the defendant's ability to put his case. He therefore had to draw inferences based on all the material before him, including inferences as to the effect of delay on the recollection of witnesses.

In that context it was important to keep in mind the words of Lord Browne-Wilkinson in *Roebuck v Mungovin* (at p234) which were not obiter, that a judge could infer a further loss of recollection from any substantial delay.

It was to be hoped that future affidavits would set out explanations of prejudice more clearly than in the present case.

Solicitors: Kirkwoods, Stanmore; Gerard Hales & Co.

Power to award costs is confined

Zanussi v Anglo Venezuelan Real Estate and Agricultural Development Ltd

The High Court jurisdiction to award costs, defined by section 51 of the Supreme Court Act 1981, did not enable the court to award costs other than those incurred in the proceedings before it and costs incidental to those proceedings.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Aldous and Sir John Balcombe) so held on March 7 when allowing Anglo Venezuelan Real Estate's appeal from a costs order made by Master Barrett on July 26, 1994 in favour of the plaintiff, Mr Guido Zanussi, in proceedings begun in March 1993, whereby he had awarded the plaintiff part of the costs of an earlier action between the parties that had been compromised in 1992.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS said that by section 51 of the 1981 Act "the costs of and incidental to all proceedings" in the High Court were in the discretion of the court. The question was whether the master had jurisdiction to make an award of the costs of the 1992 case in the 1993 case.

The word "all" in section 51 meant "in every proceeding which is before the court". The section did not confer jurisdiction on the court to award costs other than those incurred in the proceedings before it.

As the 1992 proceedings were not incidental to the 1993 proceedings it was apparent that the master did not have jurisdiction to order the defendants to pay any of the costs of the 1992 proceedings.

Parent not liable over child

A v Director of Public Prosecutions

Before exercising its powers to make an order that a parent should pay compensation and costs under section 55 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 in respect of an offence committed by a child, a court should satisfy itself that such an order was reasonable.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Leggatt and Sir Iain Glidewell) so held on April 1 when allowing an appeal by way of case stated against the dismissal by Wood Green Crown Court (Judge Lait and justices) on July 1, 1994 of an appeal against an order by justices at Enfield Youth Court on May 4, 1994 that a parent pay compensation in respect of a child's conviction for criminal damage.

SIR IAIN GLIDEWELL said that the act had occurred while the child was being accommodated by the council with the parent's consent, under section 20 of the Children Act 1989.

Although the child was not the subject of a care order and the parent retained legal care and control, the local authority had de facto charge of its day to day management. There was no way in practice that the parent could have stopped the child from committing the act.

In those circumstances it was not reasonable to hold the parent responsible for the child's actions.

Accordingly the appeal would be allowed and the order for compensation and costs against the parent would be quashed.

Establishing prospectus misrepresentation

Possfund Custodian Trustee Ltd and Another v Diamond and Others

Parr and Others v Same

McGrigor Donald (a Firm) Third Party

Before Mr Justice Lightman

[Judgment April 2]

When a purchaser in the unlisted securities market claimed damages in respect of a misrepresentation from those responsible for defects in the original share prospectus, he had to establish that he reasonably (i) relied on the relevant representation, and (ii) believed that the representor intended him to act on it.

Mr Justice Lightman so held in the Chancery Division, in refusing to strike out, under Order 18, rule 19 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, those parts of the statements of claim by 75 plaintiffs in two consolidated actions, which related to purchases of shares in that market, as distinct from subscriptions on their issue.

The prospectus in question was issued in April 1989 prior to the placing of 5,177,725 shares of 5p in the eighth defendant, Diamond Group Holdings plc, on the unlisted securities market at 85p each. The first to seventh defendants were Diamond's directors at the time; the ninth defendant, Allied Provincial Corporate Services Ltd, was Diamond's financial adviser for that placing; the tenth defendants, Arthur Andersen & Co, were Diamond's auditors and the reporting accountants.

Mr Charles Falconer, QC and Mr Martin Moore for the plaintiffs; Mr Robin Potts, QC and Mr Philip Gilyon for Allied Provincial; Mr Mark Barnes, QC and Mr Rhodri Davies for Arthur Andersen; Mr Andrew Thornton for the seventh defendant.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said the novel question of law was whether those responsible for the issue of a company's prospectus owed a duty of care to subsequent purchasers of its shares in the unlisted market.

The plaintiffs contended that:

1 Both when subsequently purchasing, as many did, as well as when initially subscribing for shares which were in fact worthless (Diamond now being in receivership) they relied, as they were intended to, on the 1989 prospectus;

2 It had misrepresented Diamond's position by failing to disclose, or understating Diamond's liabilities;

3 All 10 defendants owed them duties of care, breach of which caused them loss and entitled them, in each of two actions begun in 1992 and 1995, to both (a) compensation in respect of subscribed shares under section 67 of the Companies Act 1985; and (b) damages at common law, in respect of "after market purchases" as well as of initial subscriptions, for (i) deceit, against Diamond and the first four defendants; (ii) negligence, in regard to the prospectus, against the first to ninth defendants; and (iii) negligence, against Arthur Andersen, in respect of their financial report within the prospectus.

Mr Falconer had submitted that the defendants' applications to strike out so much of the plaintiffs' pleading as related to subsequent purchases should be refused:

1 As an abuse of process, since Mr Justice Harman had refused a strike-out attempt by Arthur Andersen in 1993; however, the launch of the second action in 1995 and its consolidation with the first were factors sufficient to prevent the matter being res judicata;

2 Because the plaintiffs' pleadings were plainly sound; countered by the defendants' contention that they were plainly unsound.

Common law and statutory schemes

The landmark speeches in *Peek v Gurney* ((1873) 6 LR HL 377) and *Derry v Peek* ((1889) 14 App Cas 337) were now supplemented by those in *Hedley Byrne & Co Ltd v Heller & Partners Ltd* ([1964] AC 465) and *Caparo Industries plc v Dickman* ([1990] AC 605) showing that the imposition of a duty of care in such situations required a closer relationship between representor and representee and that its imposition had to be fair, just and reasonable.

The Financial Services Act 1986, which followed Professor Gower's report *Review of Investor Protection* (Cmnd 9125) of 1984 drew a sharp distinction between the listing of particulars of shares to be admitted to the official list of the Stock Exchange (Part IV of the Act) and prospectuses of unlisted securities (Part V; never brought into force).

Were the pleadings adequate?

The material paragraph in the 1992 action claimed that "the purpose . . . of the prospectus was to provide the financial background to [Diamond] . . . on the strength of which or in the context of which a market in the shares was established and maintained and, in particular, to induce or encourage [persons, to whom the prospectus was sent, to purchase further shares "in the aftermarket]".

Only one potentially supportive further and better particular of that paragraph had been served: namely "The fact that the purpose set out [therein] is acknowledged by those experienced as advisers in relation to the flotation of companies as one of the purposes of a prospectus issued in connection with a placing . . ." which his Lordship had regarded as so close to unintelligible and uncommunicative that when it became clear that it, and the as yet unrevealed expert evidence in support, constituted the whole thrust of the plaintiffs' defence to a strike-out, he had ordered them to file an affidavit from their expert substantiating it, an order, although objected to by Mr Falconer as a procedural innovation, his Lordship believed he had both jurisdiction and a duty to make, in the interests of convenience and justice.

That affidavit, when duly filed, stated that by 1989 established commercial practice and perceptions no longer confined the purpose of a prospectus to, the inducing of subscriptions: it was now prepared with the further intention of inducing purchases in the aftermarket. That was now clear enough to escape "strike-out".

Intent and proximity

There were two issues: Did those responsible for a prospectus intend aftermarket purchasers to reLy on it and if so did the necessary degree of proximity link those responsible with such purchasers?

As to intention, must it be assessed obectively: see *Clerk & Linsell on Torts* (17th edition (1995) paragraph 7.65)? Whether or not a subjective intention sufficed, it seemed that it must, in all cases be objectively established.

As to proximity, the law drew a distinction between representations made to specific persons for specific purposes and representations to the public. In the latter, it was likely to be established only if reliance upon it by them, for the purpose in question, were found to have been intended by the representor: see *Morgan Crucible v Hill Samuel & Co Ltd* ([1991] Ch 295, 320B-C) per Lord Justice Slade; *Galoo Ltd v Bright Graham Murray* ([1994] 1 WLR 1360, 1382-3) per Lord Justice Glidewell.

Negligence and the prospectus

The startiag point in determining the ambit of the duty owed by the draftsman of a prospectus must be its statutory purpose but his Lordship opined that if its additional and intended purpose: of informing and encouraging purchasers in the aftermarket, were established, it was at least arguable that a duty of care was owed to the latter.

He referred again to *Peek v Gurney* and to *Al Nakib v Longcraft* ([1990] 1 WLR 1390), *Scott v Dixon* ((1859) 29 LJ (Exch) 62, note), *Andrews v Mockford* ([1896] 1 QB 372) and finally, as supporting the view that the plaintiffs' claim merited full consideration at trial, to *Gower on Company Law* (5th edition (1992) p498).

Solicitors: Maxwell Batley; Richards Butler; Herbert Smith; Simmons & Simmons.

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Scots Law Report April 18 1996 Court of Session

Claims too various to allow lead actions

Anderson v Braer Corporation and Others

Before Lord Gill

[Judgment March 14]

The kinds of claims made by Shetland islanders in actions for physical and personal injuries arising out of the wreck of the Braer in 1993 were too various for 77 of them to be delayed while another four proceeded as leading actions.

Lord Gill, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, refusing a motion by Mr Christopher Anderson and 76 other persons for actions of reparation brought by them against the Braer Corporation, Assuranceforeningen Skuld (Gjensidig) and the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund to be sisted pending the outcome of actions brought against the same defenders by the firm of J. W. L. Black and others, Mr Magnus Burgess and Mr Martin Burgess.

Mr James Drummond Young, QC and Mr Raj Jandoo for the pursuers; Mr Robert Howie for the first and second defenders; Mr Colin Campbell, QC, for the third defenders.

LORD GILL said that the actions before him were 77 of the 239 actions arising from the wreck of the oil tanker MV Braer, which had been brought under the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution) Act 1971. A group of 85 actions with which the court was presently concerned related largely to physical damage to asbestos and felt roofs, but there were also various claims for personal injuries and a variety of agricultural claims. Some of those cases had been sisted to enable the pursuers to apply for legal aid. Most of the other 154 actions were by fishermen or fish farmers.

Mr Campbell had informed his Lordship that the fund had paid out about £48 million on claims arising from the wreck. About £10 million remained available to meet further claims. The total of all sums sued for in the actions before the court was about £80 million plus interest.

In the group of 85 cases the total of all sums sued for was about £10 million plus interest. As a result the third defenders had suspended all payments out of the fund until all 239 actions were resolved.

The proposal was that four actions should proceed as leading actions in order to minimise the time, effort and expense associated with the others.

However, Rule of Court 22.3(6) provided that the proper time for such a motion was after the closing of the record. But even if his Lordship was wrong that the rule excluded any inherent discretion of the court to order a sist, the pursuers had not satisfied him that the 81 actions arose out of the same cause of action.

All of the actions originated in the spillage of oil from the Braer, but within them there were various types of claim: for example, damage to buildings and fences; damage to pastures and soils; damage to livestock, crops and fertilisers; landslides; physical injury; and the emergency transfer of children to the mainland.

Even within claims of the same generic type there were wide variations. For example, the physical effects claimed for were alleged to include upper respiratory tract damage, depression, hernia, ulcers and a broken knee.

In the commonest head of claim, damage to asbestos roof tiles, there would be inevitable variations between cases in respect of the location of the property relative to the site of the spill; the construction, design and state of repair of the roof, and the element of betterment that might be involved in any repairs already undertaken.

There might also be questions specific to individual cases as to remoteness, pure economic loss and the like. Some of the actions involved claims by partnerships and would raise their own special problems.

The proposed leading actions accounted for only 14 of 45 separate heads of claim identified by the third defenders.

His Lordship was not satisfied that in any of the four prospective leading actions there was any clear and concise question of fact or law that would make it expedient to sist the others. It was far from certain that the decisions in those four actions would resolve any question to the effect of reducing significantly the time, effort and expense to be incurred overall in the actions in the group, particularly since no agreement existed between the parties that any action or group of actions would be held as decisive of any questions of fact or law.

On the contrary, if the motions were granted, the parties would be free to adapt their legal and evidential strategies in the sisted actions in the light of the outcomes in the leading actions and no lord ordinary would be bound by any decision reached by a lord ordinary in any of the leading actions. The proposed sist might therefore delay rather than accelerate the resolution of the claims.

Law agents: Campbell Smith & Co, WS; Henderson Boyd Jackson, WS; Morton Fraser & Milligan, WS.

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كلية الاعلام

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■ FILM 1

Time-travelling the complex way in Terry Gilliam's baroque new extravaganza, *Twelve Monkeys*

■ FILM 2

Plenty of smart Brooklyn talk in *Smoke*, Wayne Wang's screen version of a Paul Auster story

THE TIMES ARTS FILMS

■ FILM 3

... but Meryl Streep and Liam Neeson flounder in the dreary family angst of *Before and After*

■ MUSIC

Michael Tilson Thomas steers the LSO through the premiere of Robin Holloway's new work

Something completely over the top

CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** sees Bruce Willis buried up to his bald head in the spectacular overkill of Terry Gilliam's *Twelve Monkeys*

Once upon a time, movie heroes were immaculately groomed and wore suits, shirts and ties. Now look at Bruce Willis in Terry Gilliam's unwieldy extravaganza, **Twelve Monkeys**. His head is shaved to reveal what Gilliam has called "the most beautiful cranium in the world". A prisoner's number is stamped above the left ear, a barcode on the back of the neck. Usually he wears grunge; sometimes, when timetravelling, he wears nothing at all.

The world he inhabits is scarcely prettier. In 2035, according to the hideously complicated script by David and Janet Peoples, the one remaining per cent of a population wiped out by a virus lives underground among darkness, rotting machinery and dripping water. Time-travelling does not improve things. Hitting 1990 by mistake, Willis, playing an enforced volunteer sent into the past to stop the virus at source, gets bundled into an asylum.

Reaching 1996 and a Philadelphia peeling with urban decay, he gets on the track of a terrorist group, the Army of the Twelve Monkeys, led by one of the asylum inmates, Brad Pitt, nutty son of virologist Christopher Plummer. The other big cast name jousting with fate is Madeleine Stowe, a psychiatrist who specialises in the Cassandra complex — the agony of being unable to prevent some dire future event. Audiences may feel some of this themselves as they watch *Twelve Monkeys*, so dazzling in parts, grow ever more unmanageable.

No one expects any Gilliam film to walk a straight line. But the criss-crossing time frames, mood swings and irrelevances in this script — inspired by Chris Marker's 1962 sci-fi short *La Jetée* — make the going more difficult than usual. Gilliam's directorial manner wreaks its own damage. He is one of the few film-makers around with a "vision", and the absurd chaos of *Twelve Monkeys* is of a piece with the worlds of *Brazil* and *The Fisher King*. His films never grow organically. One sequence, designed with breathtaking panache, is piled on top of another, and the tower topples over.

Like some Gothic architects, Gilliam does not know when to stop. One instance: having allowed Pitt horrible freedom to chew the scenery, acting mad with gesticulating hands, he then shoots the asylum scenes through a distorting camera lens.

Luckily, other performers keep their heads. Willis's unheroic, vulnerable role may bemuse *Die Hard* fans, but the man deserves praise for tackling adventurous material. As always, Stowe is fascinating to watch — feisty, vulnerable, elegant and earthy all at once — although you never feel the flames of romance flicker between the two stars. You never, in fact, feel much for the characters at all: partly because you can barely spot them among the garbage, graffiti, time jumps and surreal clutter.

Gilliam hopes his film will give audiences the thrill of seeing something new. If spectacle were all we might well be thrilled; but if we want a film with a sense of purpose, control and a human heart, we must look elsewhere.

Twelve Monkeys
Warner West End
15, 129 mins
Terry Gilliam's unwieldy extravaganza

Smoke
Lumiere, 15, 100 mins
Agreeable talk piece written by Paul Auster

Unzipped
MGM Shaftesbury Ave
15, 74 mins
Exuberant fashion documentary

Before and After
Odeon Leicester Square
12, 108 mins
Streep and Neeson get the glums

Perhaps to **Smoke**. Characters troop into Harvey Keitel's tobacconist's to buy supplies of the lethal weed. But the cigarettes in their mouths never stop them talking: Wayne Wang's agreeable if lightweight film coasts along on the dialogue of the fashionable novelist Paul Auster, who developed the script from a Christmas story he wrote for *The New York Times*.

Wang's usual stomping ground is America's Chinese immigrant community. Here he falls into the Brooklyn melting pot, armed with stories about fathers, sons and widowers breaking free from a painful past with the help of friends and the quirks of fate. Keitel never quite convinces as a master of Brooklyn bonhomie, although it is cheering to find him fully dressed and not pumping people with bullets. Despite location shooting, Brooklyn itself seems less than half-real; the apartment of William Hurt's grieving novelist has "studio set" stamped all over it, while the desiccated air of Auster's talk belongs more to smart Manhattan.

The cast keeps you watching. Aside from Keitel and Hurt, you get Stockard Channing with an eyepatch, Forest Whitaker with a false arm, and Harold Perrineau, memorable as a boy running from gangsters with $5,800 in cash. The characters weave in and out, talking, inhaling, spinning anecdotes. Nothing amounts to much, but *Smoke* is never less than pleasant.

Documentary is such a grey word that it seems unfair to pin it to **Unzipped**, an exuberant portrait of fashion designer Isaac Mizrahi as he whizzes about New York creating a new collection. A true child of America, Mizrahi ravenously feeds off movies, and gets the idea for his 1994 autumn show from a television screening of Flaherty's silent classic *Nanook of the North*, one of the most venerable documentaries of all. Another key influence is Loretta Young's appearance in *Call of the Wild*: although she's half-frozen in the tundra, the ordeal leaves her poise and eyeliner untouched. Eskimo fur meets Hollywood kitsch, or, as Mizrahi puts it, "Giselle meets Fred Flintstone".

The last movie to ransack the fashion world, Altman's feeble *Prêt-à-Porter*, took a sour view of things. But the director of *Unzipped*, fashion photographer Douglas Keeve, clearly relishes the peacock egos, the drudgery and madness required to mount a show. It's no easy task. Intransigent fabrics must be cut, tailored and cajoled. So must the models, who dislike Mizrahi's notion of changing clothes behind a transparent screen. Then, worst blow of all, Jean Paul Gaultier comes out with his own collection of Eskimo chic.

Through all the torments Mizrahi ploughs on; bubbling with humour and mimicry of movie stars. He's a great show in himself; and this joyful film, shot on the run with great panache by Ellen Kuras, does him proud.

The glum family drama **Before and After** does nobody proud, not its stars, Meryl Streep and Liam Neeson, nor its director, Barbet Schroeder. "I just want my boy back," Streep's paediatrician bleats, "I just want to hold him again." Neeson, meanwhile, as her artist husband, wrenches his face in a way that suggests severe stomach ache.

The cause of all anguish is their teenage son, Edward Furlong, accused of murdering a local lass. Not that Furlong seems bothered: he blots his copybook as a rising star by walking through in a lazy daze, scarcely raising his eyelids or opening his mouth. His opposite number is Alfred Molina, the family's Greek defence lawyer, who rolls his eyes, twitches a bushy moustache, and eats a sandwich that passed the continuity girl by: in one shot you see it, in another you don't. Oh well.

Which way did the plot go? Madeleine Stowe and Bruce Willis try not to panic in the time-travelling *Twelve Monkeys*

RADIO

Master with class

Yehudi Menuhin is the cause of my taking up the violin as a boy and putting it down again a few years later, having made little discernible progress. I wanted to sound like him, but he sounded so unlike me as to render the gap unbridgeable. Menuhin had an unfair advantage: he was a genius.

Next week Menuhin is 80, so Classic FM has gone to town. **Menuhin: Master Musician** (Saturdays) is in its second week ... of 20. Each programme lasts an hour. This is the longest single-personality series Classic has mounted: 20 hours of Menuhin smacks of an overreaction to the common charge that Classic is a sampler station.

So it will be interesting to see if the series, written and presented by Humphrey Burton, has legs. Menuhin was all of seven years old before he made his concert debut (with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra) so, musically, we are looking at a career which has lasted a mere 73 years. He made his first record in 1928.

Thus far the series looks extremely promising. The emphasis is on the music and not only that of Menuhin. How splendid to hear the sounds of his boyhood heroes, Heifetz and Kreisler, so rarely heard anywhere on radio nowadays.

Colleagues who report the criminal courts will be relieved to know that there is little risk of the luncheon recess being delayed on Wednesdays for the next five weeks. **Chambers** (Radio 4) is a new lunchtime comedy series which takes the legal profession to the cleaners.

John Bird stars as John Fuller Carp, a ruthless head of chambers who is determined to become a QC. In this pursuit Carp does not so much confront moral dilemmas as leave his spectacles at home in order not to see them. No wonder there are so many lawyers in the House of Commons.

The comedic tensions are provided by Carp's naive assistant, played by James Fleet, and Lesley Sharpe as Ruth Quirke, who joins the chambers intent on overhauling the entire legal system. The script is by Clive Coleman, a barrister and law lecturer, so he should know.

PETER BARNARD

Charming *Smoke*

SNAP VERDICT

SMOKE

Jamie Lawson, 18: A very gentle, charming film. Well-shot with wonderful dialogue.

Jenny Dawson, 20: This was one of the most unusual films I've seen for some time. Really good, enhanced by Harvey Keitel and William Hurt's great performances.

Thomas Stevens, 18: Uneventful, feel-good movie. Although the acting was superb, it was trite and a little dull.

Chris Rushbrook, 18: Enjoyable — simply but effectively filmed.

UNZIPPED

Janie: I don't usually like documentary films, but this was an exception. The number of stars that appeared was amazing.

Jenny: It provides an inspiring and frantic insight into the world of fashion. This model-filled movie was fast and witty and well worth seeing.

Thomas: There were funny moments and the film was well directed, but on the whole it wasn't particularly interesting or likeable.

Chris: You have to know something about the fashion people in New York to fully understand it. The idea of mixing monochrome and colour didn't really work, but the use of old clips was groovy!

CONCERT

On the Holloway road

LSO/Tilson Thomas
Barbican

LONDON has heard two major orchestral premieres a week apart. Robin Holloway's Third Concerto for Orchestra, launched at the Barbican on Tuesday in the wake of an important new John Casken piece at the Festival Hall, was on first hearing the less interesting of the two, though one performance of such an ambitious 45-minute piece is no basis for final judgment.

Few performances are likely to be more persuasive, however. The London Symphony Orchestra gave its considerable best to Michael Tilson Thomas, who conducted with impressive control. He found plenty of atmospheric effects in the scoring — for large orchestra with prominent percussion, piano, celesta and harp — but too few arresting ideas for such a long piece.

Indeed, it sounds like a composition "about" composing. There are few obvious external impulses, even if initial inspiration came from a South American journey 15 years ago. Early sketches were lost through the theft of his bag in La Paz, and now Holloway derives nearly all his material from a pair of interlocking thirds, which metamorphose in every possible way. He has admitted it to be an attempt at something avant-garde; previous works have found him torn between modernist and Neo-Romantic opposites; this piece falls nondescriptly in between.

After a mysterious, darkly-coloured opening pregnant with promise, the first movement is little more than a dense though smoothly flowing "texture-piece". The Chaconne that follows is the most structured movement in a tightly organised work. But not until the third movement does anything memorable happen: shimmering textures are gathered up in appealing, shifty tango rhythms.

Holloway's new work took him 13 years to complete, so perhaps Beethoven, for whom composition was always a tortuous struggle, made good complementary programming. But listening to this performance of the *Emperor* Piano Concerto was not easy, either: Barry Douglas was a wilful soloist who opened a wide stylistic gap between himself and the orchestra.

JOHN ALLISON

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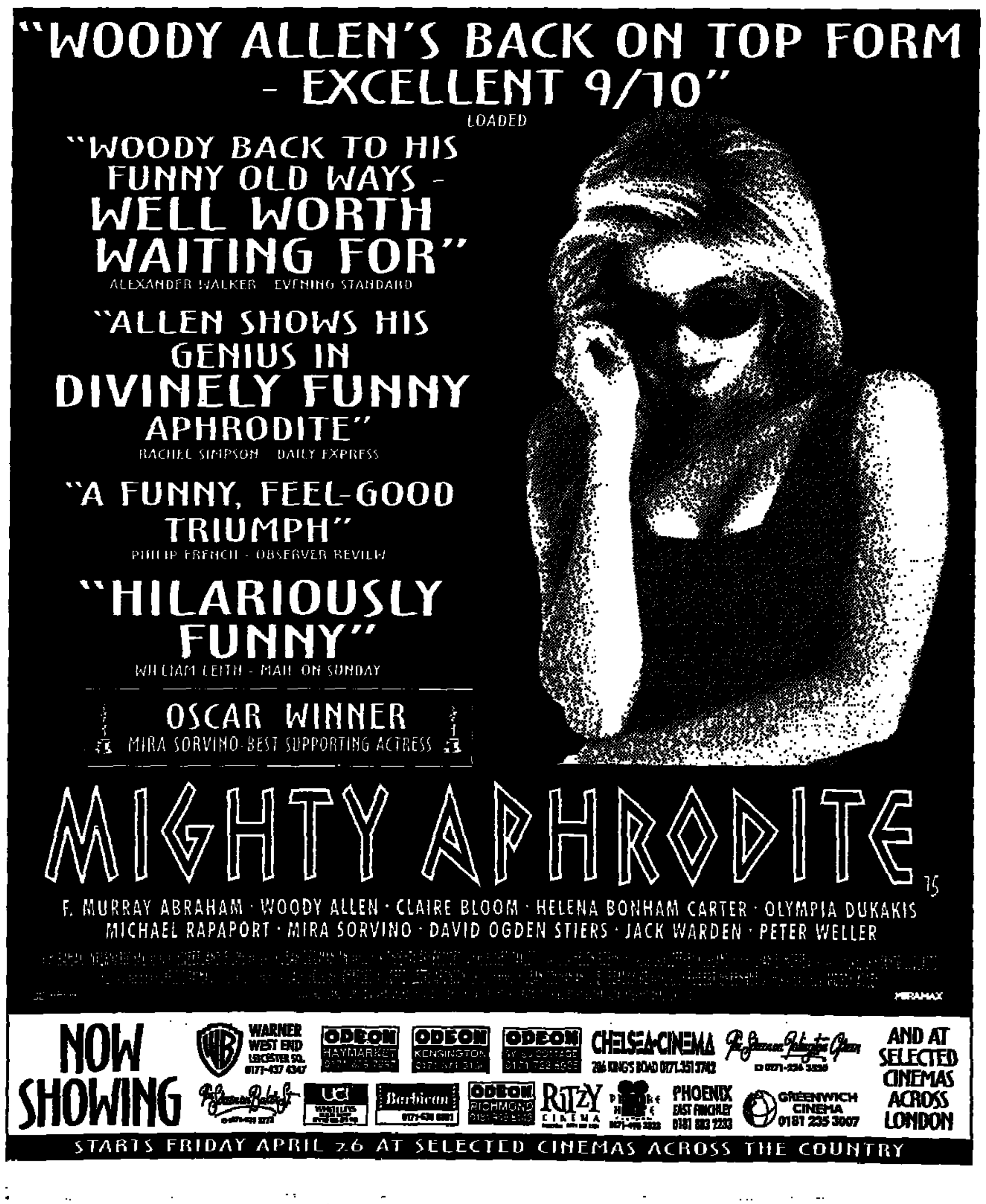

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THE TIMES ARTS

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A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

MUSIC ON THE SOUTH BANK: Riccardo Muti makes a welcome return to the Festival Hall (7.30pm), after an eight-year absence, to conduct the **Philharmonia Orchestra** and Chorus in Haydn's great Symphony No 48, Maria Theresia, and Cherubini's Mass in D minor. Over at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (8pm), the vocal group **Sinfonye** and members of the Oxford Girls Choir sing extraordinary and virtuosic liturgical chant from Hildegard of Bingen's song-cycle *Symphonia*.
South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242) Tonight. ♿

THE DESIGNATED MOURNER: The American actor and film director Mike Nichols makes his British acting debut in Wallace Shawn's new play. Miranda Richardson is the woman torn between her father and another man. With David de Keyser. David Hare directs.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Previews begin tonight, 8pm; mat Sat 4pm. Opens Apr 24. Then in rep. ♿

TARTUFFE: Ian McDiarmid and Tom Hollander, with Peggy Mount for good measure, in Jonathan Kent's production of Molière's tart comedy on religious follies.
Almeida, Almeida St, N1 (0171-359 4404). Previews begin tonight, 8pm; mats Sat 4pm. Opens Apr 23, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm, mat Sat 4pm. ♿

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW: A storm-and-jolly type of recital from the popular German violinist **Anne-Sophie Mutter**, who is accompanied by Lambert Orkis on the piano. The programme includes works by Brahms, Bartók, Beethoven, Wieniawski and De Sarasate, including the sizzling Carmen fantasy.
Royal Concert Hall, Sauchiehall Street, G2 ♿ (0141-227 5511). Tonight, 8pm. Tomorrow **London**, Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891).

EDINBURGH: The tenor John Mark Ainsley joins the ebullient **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** in a sequence of works by Schubert and Britten. Ivor Bolton conducts, flushed after his success in guiding the BBC Young Musicians of the Year final.
Queen's Hall, Clerk Street (0131-668 2019). Tonight, 7.45pm.

LEICESTER: Howard Barker's latest rework on a classic text comes up with **(Uncle) Vanya** in which the famous gunshot does not miss its target, and Chekhov himself has to appear to sort out the crisis. Previews begin tonight.
Haymarket, Belgrave Gate (0116-253 9797). 7.30pm; mat Sat 3pm. Opens Apr 23, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm; mat Sat (Apr 27) 2.30pm. Until Apr 27. ♿

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: The season opens with Steven Pimlott's production of **As You Like It**, with Niamh Cusack and Liam Cunningham playing the central pair of lovers.
Royal Shakespeare, Waterside (01789 295623). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm; mats Sat, Thurs 1.30pm. Opens April 25. In rep from May 9. ♿

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Contemporary Print Show Part 1 (0171-638 4141) . **British Museum:** Vases and Volcanoes: Sir William Hamilton collection (0171-636 1555) . **Courtauld:** Drawings by Thomas Gainsborough (0171-873 2526) . **Festival Hall:** Symbols for '51 (0171-960 4242) . **National Gallery:** At Home with Constable's *Cornfield* (0171-747 2885) . . **National Portrait Gallery:** Faces of the 80s (0171-306 0055) . **Richard Green:** 40 paintings Jan van Goyen (0171-493 3939) . **Serpentine:** Jean-Michel Basquiat, paintings (0171-723 9072) . **Tate:** Bill Woodrow's statues (0171-887 8000) . **V & A:** The Leighton Frescoes (0171-938 8500) . **Whitechapel:** Jeff Wall's transparencies (0171-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

■ **CLOCKS AND WHISTLES:** Excellent performances in Samuel Adamson's first play, and Dominic Dromgoole's last production as Artistic Director: young chap confused by cross-gender disloyalties in his gay-bi-straight London world.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

□ **COMPANY:** Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage, pro and contra.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

◪ **ENDGAME:** Alun Armstrong and Stephen Dillane play Hamm and Clov in Katie Mitchell's production of Beckett.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 4pm. Until May 25. ♿

□ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND:** Triumphant return for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal. The star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, Pennie Downie.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat 3pm. Last week. ♿

◪ **LADY INTO FOX:** Intimate musical by Neil Bartlett and Nicolas Bloomfield based on David Garnett's mysterious, chilling novella. With Louise Gold as the wife turned vixen. Final week.
Lyric Studio, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4.30pm.

□ **MISS JULIE:** Polly Teale directs Susan Lynch in the title role of Strindberg's drama of erotic doom. With John Hannah and Cara Kelly.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat 3.30pm. Last week. ♿

□ **SALAD DAYS:** Welcome return of Julian Slade's tuneful musical, directed by Ned Sherrin. Nicola Fulljames and Simon Connolly play the young lovers.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 4pm.

■ **SOME SUNNY DAY:** Martin Sherman's stimulating new play, set in Cairo in 1942 where the Brits are reduced to stiff-lipped panic: wife-murder and other courses appropriate to changing one's life. Splendid cast.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. ♿

□ **THAT GOOD NIGHT:** New N J Crisp thriller on tour with Donald Sinden as a veteran film director trying, perhaps unwisely, to make peace with his estranged son. Edward Hall directs a company that includes Nigel Davenport.
Richmond, The Green, Richmond (0181-940 0088). Tonight-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat 2.30pm.

□ **THE THICKNESS OF SKIN:** Final week for Clare McIntyre's strong, perceptive play about the awkward consequences of becoming involved with troublesome neighbours.
Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Apr 16, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

◪ **TWELVE ANGRY MEN:** The 12 actors include Peter Vaughan, Timothy West and Kevin Whately, and the director is Harold Pinter. Reginald Rose's celebrated jury-room drama.
Comedy, Panton Street SW1 (0171-369 1731). Now previewing, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm. Opens Apr 22, 7pm.

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . □ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) . ◪ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060) . ◪ **Jolson**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . ■ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) . ◪ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . □ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . ◪ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . ◪ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **BROKEN ARROW** (15): John Travolta steals nuclear weapons; Christian Slater tries to get them back. Brainless action movie by John Woo.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **CITY HALL** (15): Something's rotten in the city of New York, even with Al Pacino as Mayor. Watchable drama with John Cusack, Bridget Fonda and Danny Aiello. Director, Harold Becker.
MGM Trocadero (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **MIGHTY APHRODITE** (15): Woody Allen searches for his adopted son's natural mother. Engaging variation on old themes, with Mira Sorvino.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **ICA** ♿ (0171-930 3647) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

NELLY AND MONSIEUR ARNAUD (PG): Claude Sautet's marvellously subtle tale about an older man and a younger woman, with Michel Serrault and Emmanuelle Béart.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Gate** (0171-727 4043) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3366)

CURRENT

◆ **CASINO** (18): Scorsese's epic of Las Vegas in the 1970s: glorious background detail, but the human drama flags. With Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone and Joe Pesci.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234)

◆ **GET SHORTY** (15): John Travolta's loanshark takes on the movie business. Entertaining but trivial comedy from Elmore Leonard's novel. Director, Barry Sonnenfeld. With Danny De Vito, Gene Hackman, Rene Russo, Delroy Lindo.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **HEAT** (15): LA detective Al Pacino tries to catch Robert De Niro's crooks. Epic crime drama from Michael Mann.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **JUMANJI** (PG): Exhilarating romp about a rainforest board game that comes to life. With Robin Williams. Director, Joe Johnston.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

◆ **LEAVING LAS VEGAS** (18): Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Striking, intimate drama from director Mike Figgis. With Elisabeth Shue.
MGM Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470) **Odeon Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **A LITTLE PRINCESS** (U): Marvellous rendering of the children's classic, with Liesel Matthews as the boarding school girl plunged from riches to rags. Director, Alfonso Cuaron.
MGM: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

SWIMMING WITH SHARKS (15): Jet-black satire about Hollywood, with Kevin Spacey as a monstrous studio executive, and Frank Whaley. Director, George Huang.
MGMs: Fulham Road ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Ct Rd** (0171-636 6148)

◆ **TOY STORY** (PG): Computer-animated Disney delight with a cast of fretful toys. With the voice of Tom Hanks. Director, John Lasseter.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Sq** (01426-915 683) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

Passions of war vividly evoked

NEW ON VIDEO

End of illusions: ideological splits in the Left lead to savage confrontation in Ken Loach's *Land and Freedom*

■ LAND AND FREEDOM

Fox Guild, 15, 1995

IN Ken Loach's hands the Spanish Civil War leaps out of 1930s history books to become a matter of burning importance. Ian Hart's idealistic Liverpool lad sets off to fight for the republicans. Experience tempers him into a hard revolutionary fighter. Then comes disillusionment. Loach and writer Jim Allen give a human dimension to political discourse, working in humour and a dollop of romance. For Loach, this counts as an epic: instead of housing estates or pubs, he has massed extras and landscapes to explore. But there are no epic gestures: the camera stays tight on faces, and the hopes and follies they reveal. Available to rent.

■ THE RED SHOES

Carlton, U, 1948

EXTRACT just the story and you are left with clichés about the rising ballerina (Moira Shearer) and her jealous, Svengali-like impresario (Anton Walbrook). But the strength of Powell and Pressburger's film lies elsewhere, in its courageous blending of cinema and ballet, and its potent fairy-tale atmosphere. Memorable music by Brian Easdale.

■ MORTAL KOMBAT

First Independent, 15, 1995

CINEMA version of the video game, all fights and special effects. The goodies are three earthlings: a hesitant expert in martial arts, a vainglorious actor, and a tough-minded girl with a useful penchant for figure-hugging clothes. The baddies are extraterrestrial bozos under an evil sorcerer's thumb. Paul Anderson's noisy action movie at least moves along and keeps a self-mocking tone, though with Christopher Lambert's laidback guru you never know how much humour is planned and how much accidental. Available to rent.

■ THE GHOUL

Carlton, U, 1933

BORIS KARLOFF returned from his horror triumphs in America to make this slow-moving British chiller about an Egyptologist who believes a jewel holds the key to eternal life. Alfred Junge's sets and Gunther Krampf's photography lend a Germanic gloom, and the cast is fascinating: Karloff aside, you get Ernest Thesiger, Cedric Hardwicke and, in his film debut, Ralph Richardson.

■ THE SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR

Connoisseur, U, 1967

DUSAN MAKAVEJEV was the bright hope of Yugoslav cinema in the late 1960s, making provocative films bouncing with political analysis and the absurdity of life. This is his second, tracing the tragi-comic affair between a liberated telephone girl and her more conservative lover, a sanitary inspector. Makavejev loves the collage effect, and flings into the story lectures on criminology, sex and rat-catching, newsreel footage and erotic paintings. The mix is still stimulating, though it is hard to escape melancholy thoughts about the subsequent fate of Yugoslavia and the director's decline in exile.

GEOFF BROWN

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Haydn's surprise; recognition for Ethel Smyth; 50 years of the WNO

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

■ HAYDN

Quartets Op 33
Quatuor Mosaiques
Auvidis Astree E 8569★★★

HAYDN touted his six Op 33 Quartets on a special subscription offer as they were written "in a new and special way". He had to do his own marketing, of course, but it had been nearly ten years since his last set, and these new works certainly held a surprise or two. The Quatuor Mosaiques, with their period instruments, offer three of the six here and, in countless details of accenting, phrasing and timing, they really do make the unexpected in Haydn's writing feel truly unpredictable once again.

Everything seems a surprise in the Third Quartet: a dark-hued Scherzo after a buoyant opening movement turns to the harmonic new dawn of the slow movement before the presto pirouetting of the finale. Here, too, is the new, spacious slow-movement style in the Fifth Quartet, and the stop-start finale which earned the Second Quartet its nickname, "The Joke".

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ SMYTH

Serenade: Concerto for Violin, Horn and Orchestra
Langdon/Watkins/BBC Philharmonic/Martinez
Chandos CHAN 9449★★★

IF THE music of Ethel Smyth has been taken increasingly seriously over recent years, it is thanks in no small measure to the endeavours of the conductor Odaline de la Martinez. Her performance of the opera *The Wreckers* at the Proms a season or two ago was a landmark and now she presents two more of Smyth's works in premiere recordings.

The Serenade in D was the work with which Smyth first appeared before English audiences in 1890 — she had been studying in Leipzig, first at the Conservatoire and then privately with Heinrich von Herzogenberg. A chief influence on Smyth at this time was undoubtedly Brahms: she had met and been encouraged by him. The Serenade belongs to the world of the Brahms Serenades and Second Symphony: its textures glow, with radiant strings infused by horns. Martinez and the BBC Philharmonic capture that effulgence, aided by a typically spacious sound from the Chandos engineers.

The Concerto for Violin, Horn and Orchestra is a much later piece (1927). The outer movements are bolder conceptions than the Serenade, more ambitious, though the lyricism is still there, especially in the solo writing — Sophie Langdon (violin) and Richard Watkins (horn) both play with consummate eloquence and skill. The central Adagio is a tender, heartwarming movement. It is good to have these works in the catalogue, and in such fine performances.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ WELSH NATIONAL OPERA

A Celebration
WNO chorus and orchestra/ various soloists and conductors
Decca 452 205-2★★★

■ SULLIVAN

Highlights from The Mikado, Pirates of Penzance, HMS Pinafore, Yeomen of the Guard, Trial by Jury
Various soloists/WNO chorus and orchestra/ Mackerras
Telarc CD-80431★★

TO MARK this month's fiftieth birthday of the Welsh National Opera, Decca's imaginative and varied selection sets out to prove that the WNO has a powerful tradition of playing for the big names. Sutherland is well to the fore with extracts from Verdi's *I masnadieri*, Donizetti's *Anna Bolena* and, of course, *Norma*. Pavarotti's Pollione is among the best on record, while Sutherland and Caballé really get one another going in *Mira, o Norma*. Under Richard Bonynge's baton this is stirring material.

WNO's conductor emeritus, Sir Charles Mackerras, takes over for the dances from *Gloriana* and Delius's *Sea Drift*, with Thomas Hampson in noble voice. Bryn Terfel in *Hiawatha* brings us up to date in terms of soloists.

If this seems too heavy-weight for a birthday party, turn to Telarc, which stitches together extracts from the Gilbert and Sullivan sets started by Mackerras in 1991. *The Mikado* was among the best, with the luxury of Marie McLaughlin as Yum Yum and Anthony Rolfe Johnson incomparable as Nanki-Poh.

In *Pinafore*, another of the best, the WNO chorus really gets a chance to show off and Mackerras allows his orchestra no dull moments.

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

ENTERTAINMENTS

ANTIQUES & ART FAIRS

ANTIQUES FAIR
Peckforton Castle
TARPORLEY, CHESHIRE
19, 20, 21 APRIL
Quality Dateline Fair
Organised by
Galloway Antiques
Fairs, N. Yorkshire
01423 324602

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Ton't 7.30 TOSCA Tomor 7.30 ORFEO

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info. Tickets available on the day The Royal Opera Tomor, Mon 7.30 NABUCCO Tue 7.30 (First Night) TOSCA The Royal Ballet Ton't, Wed 7.30 Ashton's ILLUMINATIONS/ SYMPHONIC VARIATIONS/THE DREAM

THEATRES

ALBERY 369 1730/344 4444 420 0000 Eves 7.45, Mats Wed, Sat 3 BEST MUSICAL CRITICS' CIRCLE AWARD 95 COMPANY by Stephen Sondheim & George Furth "This show is indispensable to civilised life...BRIBE THE BOX OFFICE TO GET IN" S.Tms

ALDWYCH 416 6046/344 4444/420 0000(fee) Mon-Sat 8, Mats Thu 3, Sat 4 PETER BOWLES "A Truly Stunning Performance" Sun. Express DEBORAH GRANT CAROLINE LANGRISHE In NOEL COWARD's Classic Comedy PRESENT LAUGHTER "VINTAGE COWARD" M on Sun LAST WEEK Transfers to Wyndams April 30

ADELPHI "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Wall St Journal SUNSET BOULEVARD Winner of 7 Tony Awards including BEST MUSICAL Starring PETULA CLARK 24HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL 0171 344 0055 (bkg fee) GRP BOOKING 413 3302 (bkg fee) No booking fee for Adelphi Box Office Callers Recorded information 0171 379 8884 Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thu & Sat 3.00

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6003/312 8039 /344 4444 (No booking fee) F. MURRAY ABRAHAM GEMMA JONES TOLSTOY by James Goldman Previews from 25 April Opens 30 April

APOLLO LABATTS HAMMERSMITH 416 6065 cc 344 4444/420 0000 (+bkg fee on all nos) "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER & TIM RICE'S BLOCKBUSTER" Gdn JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT starring PHILLIP SCHOFIELD MUST END SATURDAY Tue-Sat 7.30, Mats Thu, Sat 3.00 ...Riverdance returns 16 May...

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321 Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of STARLIGHT EXPRESS "A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail White knuckle runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50

APOLLO Shaftesbury Ave 0171 494 5070 Previews from 9 May. Eves 8pm, Thu mat 3pm Sat 5 & 8.15. Press Night 20 May 7pm Zoë Wanamaker Maria Aitken Robin Ellis SYLVIA a romantic comedy by A.R. Gurney directed by Michael Blakemore

ARTS 836 2132/420 0000 BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH by Jimmy Murphy 'Best new play in London' Guardian Booking to 18th May Eves 7.30, Sat at 5.30 & 8.30

CAMBRIDGE BO & cc 0171 494 5054 cc (no bkg fee) 312 1992/ 344 4444 Grps 413 3321/ 312 1970/ 494 5454 FAME THE MUSICAL "FAME IS A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH" Mail On Sunday "BREATHTAKING" Independent Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

COMEDY 0171 369 1731/ cc 344 4444 (24hrs) KEVIN WHATELY TIMOTHY WEST PETER VAUGHAN TONY HAYGARTH TIM HEALY TWELVE ANGRY MEN Directed by Harold Pinter Now Previewing Mon-Sat 7.45pm, Wed 2.30pm & Sat 4pm Opens 22 April at 7.00

CRITERION 369 1737/344 4444 REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged) "Hilarious" Times Mats Thur at 3, Sat at 5 Sun at 4, Eves at 8pm THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged) Tuesday at 8pm

DOMINION Ticketlines 0171 416 6060/ 0171 420 0000 (bkg fee). Grps 0171 416 6075/413 3321/420 0200 GREASE Starring RICHARD CALKIN and SHONA LINDSAY "Fast, furious & fun, fun, fun" D Mi Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3pm TICKETS AVAILABLE - APPLY DAILY TO BOX OFFICE

DUCHESS cc 0171 494 5070 cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee)/420 0000 (bkg fee) 0171-413 3321 Eves 8pm, Wed mat 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30 "A SAUCY COMEDY" E. Std NOW IN ITS 8th YEAR DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER "Gloriously Outrageous" T.Out

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL SS cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/312 8000 MISS SAIGON "THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME" NOW IN ITS 7TH SENSATIONAL YEAR! Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS 0171 494 5060 (BKG FEE)

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/0171 312 8033 BARRY STANTON MICHAEL HIGGS Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt "The most thrilling and chilling play for years" D.Mail NOW IN ITS 8TH YEAR Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm FORTUNE Sundays 3.30 pm "Quite Astonishing" BBC Elizabeth Mansfield as MARIE Booking to July

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/ 0171 312 1990 (no bkg fee) Some Experiences You Never Forget WINNER OF 19 MAJOR AWARDS The Royal National Theatre production JB Priestley's AN INSPECTOR CALLS "THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN" D.Mail "One of the most intoxicating, theatrically imaginative experiences of the 1990s" Eve. Stand "TWO HOURS OF ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY STUNNING DRAMA" D.Tel Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.00 & 8.15, Wed mat 2.30

GIELGUD 494 5065/344 4444 /420 0000 'A star team juggling with star material..COMEDY AT ITS ZENITH' Mail on Sunday TOM CONTI "Wonderful" D.Ex SHARON GLESS 'Luminous' D.Tel CHAPTER TWO "NEIL SIMON AT HIS BEST" S.Tel "Tender, funny & deeply touching....marvellous" D.Mail Mon - Fri 8, Mats Thu 3, Sat 5 & 8.15

HAYMARKET 930 8800 cc 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) THE PETER HALL COMPANY Martin Shaw Anna Carteret Penny Downie David Yelland Michael Denison Dulcie Gray OSCAR WILDE'S AN IDEAL HUSBAND Eves 7.45, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 Transfers to OLD VIC from May 7 "GREAT & GLORIOUS" S. Times

HAYMARKET 930 8800 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) THE PETER HALL COMPANY Felicity Kendal Nell Pearson Nicholas Le Prevost MIND MILLIE FOR ME Eves 7.45, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 PREVIEWS 24th APRIL

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/436 5588 ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Directed by HAROLD PRINCE NOW BKG TO DEC 96 Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 Apply to Box Office daily for returns

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 tkt serv chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 312 8000 JIM DALE RETURNS TO THE WEST END "A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT" Daily Mail OLIVER! 2ND SPECTACULAR YEAR "LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE" S.Times Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS

LYRIC 0171 494 5580/ 344 4444 (bkg fee) ***WINNER*** 95 & 96 OLIVIER AWARDS Dein Perry Best Choreography TAP DOGS "KILL TO GET A TICKET" Scot Mon-Thurs 8.00, Fri & Sat 6.00 & 8.45

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252; Grps 0171 620 0741; 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000 OLIVIER Ton't (PREVIEW) 7.15, Tomor (PRESS NIGHT) 7.00 THE PRINCE'S PLAY Victor Hugo in a new verse translation by Tony Harrison LYTTELTON Ton't, Tomor 7.30 MARY STUART Friedrich Schiller in a new translation by Jeremy Sams COTTESLOE Ton't, Tomor (PREVIEWS) 8.00 THE DESIGNATED MOURNER Wallace Shawn

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000. Grps 0171 413 3311/436 5588 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT. Bars open at 6.45 LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.

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■ OPERA

Vigorous singing and conducting, shame about the staging of the new *Faust* in Cardiff

■ DANCE

Hot moves from Montreal: an international choreographic display comes to Sadler's Wells

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE

Strindberg is given a heavy modernist twist as *Miss Julie* is revived at the Gate

■ TOMORROW

Rude about our royals? Peter Whelan explains the republican sentiments in his new play

OPERA: Sterling performances cannot save WNO's half-baked production; a cautious debut at the Garden

Victorian Faust bedevilled by design

Faust
New, Cardiff

The Welsh National Opera has had the bright idea of performing Tuesday's fiftieth anniversary production of Gounod's opera in the near-contemporary — 1864 — English translation by Henry Chorley. To hear such legendary lines as "All hail, thou dwelling pure and lowly", familiar from countless old recordings, is really rather charming, and of course the Victorian syntax fits Gounod's music like a glove. This practice could well spread, though some even earlier versions, such as the famous *Freischütz* with its "whence gottest thou such wondrous balls?", might need tactful editing for today's audiences.

Sadly WNO has not quite come up with an 1860-ish performance to match. Sir Charles Mackerras plainly loves the score — could any musician fail to? — and revels in its rich sonorities, its wealth of melody, its unashamed sentiment. At times his love carries him away: he both lingers unduly over the more glutinous moments, and tends to hurry the sprightlier numbers — the Kermesse chorus and the Waltz go at breakneck speeds, allowing little opportunity for shapely phrasing or nuance. There is little Gallic fragrance or delicacy to his reading, and the fat, juicy sound he draws from the orchestra drags the music forward by about 40 years, nearer the sound-world of Elgar and Mahler than that of Gounod.

This has an effect on the singing. The chorus, especially, sing loud, and then louder — impressive, but there is opportunity for more light and shade. Some of the principals, too, might sing even more expressively were they not so conscious of the barrage of sound to be surmounted. Jason Howard's Valentine, sung at a steady double forte, is a case in point, and his tone is growing worryingly dry and shallow.

Janice Watson, a soprano who really sings words, makes a lovely Margarita: Mackerras was at his most considerate in the *Jewel Song*, nursing her through a wittily thrown-off account of this barely defensible showpiece, and she found plenty of good, solid tone for the Church Scene and final trio.

Paul Charles Clarke (Faust) virtually disarmed all criticism with his mezzoforte top C diminuendo-ing down to nothing in "All hail" — a moment of pure magic — but I trust he will find more variety of dynamic as the run progresses, and drop his new mannerism of cutting off loud notes with a sort of glottal stop (leave that kind of thing to Pavarotti on a bad night). Alastair Miles, after years of singing the sort of roles even young basses are sentenced to — priests, heavy fathers and so on — thoroughly enjoyed wrapping himself round Mephistopheles in an instinctively stylish performance.

Oh dear, the production. Christopher Alden's WNO *Turandot*, interesting in parts, led me to remark that "he who strives may be forgiven", little suspecting how much would need to be forgiven, and how soon. This *Faust*, in plug-ugly decor by Bruno Schwengl, looked like a sly parody of bad "concept" stagings. Cliché was piled on cliché: shiny black costumes all round, long-haired wigs making everyone look like Irish setters, zombie-like slow motion, especially when the music is urgent.

The tiny role of Martha (Susan Gorton) was mysteriously beefed up — she became Mephisto's accomplice, Margarita's midwife and executioner. Siebel (Joanne Edworthy, miscast) had to drag half a tree on stage, not a bouquet. Margarita walked on water. Wow! Ideas proposed in the programme — a *Grimes*-ish persecution scenario, a rueful fallen-angel persona for Mephisto — were not put across in the staging. To call it all half-baked would be a slander on culinary art.

RODNEY MILNES

DONALD COOPER

Faust as cliché: Janice Watson (front) as Margarita and Alastair Miles as an "instinctively stylish" Mephistopheles in WNO's staging

Shade steps warily into the limelight

Arabella
Covent Garden

Without a star soprano in the title role, *Arabella*, the gentle Strauss-Hofmannsthal comedy of Viennese decay, can depress the takings at the box office. But this Covent Garden revival has turned out a success and credit is due to Mark Elder. At the Coliseum he showed himself a fine Strauss conductor and his *Arabella* at the other place now puts a triple underlining on that reputation.

The right measure of sugar is sprinkled on the waltzes, Arabella's supreme self-confidence amidst her tatty family is lyrically conveyed. The orchestra is finally unleashed in the stormy prelude to Act III, reflecting Mandryka's furious journey to the hotel of his bride-to-be. Or not to be in his current mood. So there was a full house for this performance, which brought the American soprano, Ellen Shade, in for her Garden debut. She is big-boned, with the saucer eyes of that famed Arabella, Kiri Te Kanawa: she carries herself and her mid-19th century costumes well; but she lacks the vocal radiance for the role and especially the flash of girlish exuberance at the end of Act I.

In a cautious performance, where she was at pains to prevent her voice splaying in the upper register, Shade was at her best in the central act. The brief duet, pledging love to Mandryka, was tenderly done and her dismissal of the three suitors, with a farewell waltz apiece, properly imperious. Quite right too: the trio of counts are the weakness of the revival. But Shade lacks the vocal artillery for the closing scene, designed to sweep Mandryka and the whole audience off their collective feet.

Around her are outstanding performances from the likes of Stafford Dean, as a Father up to his epaulettes in gambling debts; Christiane Oelze, who makes an alluring Zdenka, and Herbert Lippert as Matteo, a young bullock in the Viennese old china shop.

But towering over all is Wolfgang Brendel's Mandryka. As he prepares Arabella for the Croatian forests, he might even persuade her that there is indeed a world beyond Vienna.

JOHN HIGGINS

POP

Heaven, if not Nirvana

The Posies
Astoria 2, WC2

DESPITE being based in Seattle and recording three albums between 1988 and 1993, the Posies were never considered to be part of the grunge scene. It is surprising that any Seattle-based band could remain so unaffected by that particular era, much less one like the Posies, who have an almost Nirvana-like gift for playing highly melodic but ultra-heavy guitar pop.

Built around singer-guitarists Jon Auer and Ken Stringfellow, the Posies seem to change their rhythm section every time they make a new album. For their fourth and latest, *Amazing Disgrace*, they recruited bassist Joe Skyward and drummer Brian Young, who kept to the back of the stage while Auer and Stringfellow took it in turns to sing lead vocals.

First, Auer sang the free-floating *Dream all Day*, one of the highlights of the 1993 album, *Frosting On The Beater*. Then Stringfellow sang *Ontario*, the first of several songs from *Amazing Disgrace*. The new songs revealed a rockier, more hard-edged side to the Posies, with *Daily Mutilation*, in particular, revolving around a huge grinding riff.

All four members of the band were dressed in blue T-shirts bearing the name Eugenius — a tribute to the Scottish band fronted by Eugene O'Neill who, despite being an acknowledged influence on Kurt Cobain, has managed to remain even less well-known than the Posies. O'Neill was rewarded when Stringfellow dedicated *Earlier than Expected* to his band, its singalong harmonies and noisy hail of guitars demonstrating exactly what O'Neill, Cobain and the Posies themselves have in common.

They finished the set with four of their most gloriously melodic songs, including the much requested *Solar Sister*. On a night like this, the Posies' barrage of noise and Beatle-style melodies provided the perfect link between grunge and Britpop.

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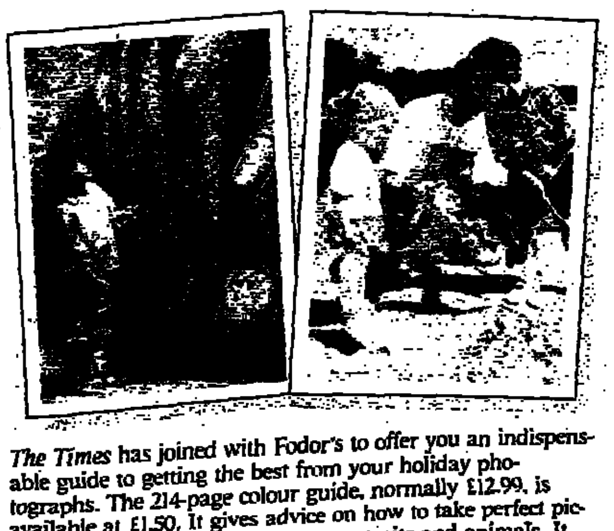

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THE TIMES

Fodor's
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Out of the gender blender

THEATRE

Miss Julie
Gate, W11

THIS is the second *Miss Julie* to have been staged in London within two weeks, and the fifth to have hit the capital in the past 18 months, a revival rate high enough to demand an explanation. Could the reason be that Strindberg addresses the contradictions of gender — a fashionable subject nowadays — as robustly as he does the everlasting complexities of class? Maybe; but I think it more likely that actresses itch to perform the "half-woman, half-man" at the play's centre, and producers are only too happy to indulge them. After all, they need only pay for one set, three performers, and maybe a few extras to rampage across the stage when the Count's valet Jean is seducing his daughter, Julie herself.

By all accounts, you would not know from Polly Teale's revival of the play at the Young Vic that it was once regarded as an example of pioneering naturalism. You certainly would not suspect from this Nick Philippou production for the Actors Touring Company that Strindberg's preface to *Miss Julie* is a *locus classicus* of naturalist theory. Everything about the piece, from characterisation to dialogue to ideas to stage furniture, was meant to owe much more to gritty reality than to tradition and theatrical convention.

But here the kitchen in which the play occurs has become a weird aluminium cell. There is a door at the back through which yellow light glares, and scrims to the side behind which grotesque figures may sometimes be seen. Peter Lindford's Jean is glimpsed more or less raping Kate Fenwick's Julie after a not-inappropriate prelude of loud bangs. Indeed, bangs are the least of the atmosphere-building noises on offer. We also get heavy breathing, clangs, rumbles, sinister gurgles, the sound of a radio being ineptly tuned, and electronic screeches, whistles, creaks, plonks and growls galore.

This is not exactly raw realism as Strindberg received it from Zola. The acting is deliberately over-the-top too. There are times when Fenwick and, especially, Lindford seem to be harking back to the very flamboyance of style the naturalists wanted to replace. "Take me away from this filth I'm sinking into," she wails after her seduction as she slides, eyes mad and hands pumping, down the wall to the ground. As for him, he twitches and squirms with febrile servility, more the hunted Uriah Heep or even the cornered Quasimodo than a macho Jeeves going through a challenging time.

Still, yesterday's realism is today's artificiality, and maybe Strindberg's original performers were more exotic than we like to believe. Moreover, I must admit that both actors grew on me as the evening rolled to its grim conclusion. They did, after all, combine huge emotional commitment with constant hints of the sexual doubts and social insecurities working away inside them. Do they miss some of the play's psychological subtleties? Yes: but they also release Strindberg from over-literal, over-scrupulous interpretation of his own dramatic ideas.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

MARILYN KINGWILL

Not as nature intended? Kate Fenwick and Peter Lindford in *Miss Julie*

DANCE: An eclectic and electric programme bounces in from Montreal

International mix and match

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens
Sadler's Wells

MONTREAL'S Les Grands Ballets Canadiens may come from one of the most chauvinistic cities in the world, but the company is truly international. Just look at the repertoire it brings on its current British tour. Mark Morris, William Forsythe, Kevin O'Day, Hans van Manen, Jiri Kylian, Nacho Duato: not a Canadian among them. It is an impressive line-up of work — and much of it is new to this country. The artistic director, Lawrence Rhodes, should be congratulated for nurturing such a healthy mix in his company.

The feather in his cap must be the commissioning of Mark Morris, one of the hottest choreographers in the business. The American has made two works for Les Grands Ballets; the second received its London premiere on Tuesday night. *Quincunx*, as its name implies, is inspired by mathematical formation. By using nine dancers instead of eight, Morris is able to group them asymmetrically; the double-sided perspectives he achieves are where the beauty and wit of this delightful ballet lie.

These are classically trained dancers and the language Morris uses is theirs, but his is a relaxed approach to discipline. He expects his performers to bubble and bounce as they leap into his springing jetés. The troupe dances *Quincunx* well, although I suspect they would be even happier with a live rendition of Donizetti to bolster their ebullience.

Kevin O'Day's *Principia* is another work dancers should love. Set to music by Steve Martland (again taped), it is a slick and snappy series of dances for four couples. It should be — after spending all those years dancing for Twyla Tharp, O'Day must have learnt a thing or two about nimble and sophisticated choreography. His own style is breezy rather than brazen, well suited to the slightly modest demeanour of the Montreal troupe.

The programme (the first of two at Sadler's Wells) also featured a short duet for two men by the Israeli choreographer Itzik Galili. Exploring the contrasting facets of a male relationship, *Double Time* also proved — when it finally got going — to be an interesting study in balance.

Hans van Manen's *Black Cake*, on the other hand, turned out to be not at all interesting. It was created to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of Nederlands Dans Theater in 1989. You can tell that it is a party: the women are in high heels and black sequinned frocks: a waiter brings champagne. But the choreographed interplay between couples is banal; a comic routine between mismatched dancers only reminds one that Kenneth MacMillan did it better in *Elite Syncopations*; and the protracted drunk scene at the end (accompanied by Massenet's *Meditation*) provided a ludicrous and irritating finale to what had been an evening of choreographic felicity.

And what a shame it was that this was the only piece to feature live music — the wonderful Royal Ballet Sinfonia.

DEBRA CRAINE

Malcolm Bradbury admires John Updike's ambitious chronicle of America's moral and metaphysical history in the 20th century

Between God and Hollywood

IN THE BEAUTY OF THE LILIES
By John Updike
Hamish Hamilton, £16

As the years have rolled by, John Updike — who started out as the grand master of the finessed short story, and a perfect *New Yorker* miniaturist — has become, over more than 40 books, the great chronicler of contemporary America. Back in 1968 *Couples* daringly summoned up the sexual and religious crisis of the day, against the background of a darkening history which brought a touch of despair to the perfect, sensual couples of his earlier stories. By this date too he had already begun his "Rabbit" series of novels which — over four volumes, 30 years in the writing — became the story of an imperfect, ordinary, very human American hero whose life told the tale of a whole disappointed generation.

An even larger intention underpins *In the Beauty of the Lilies*, which is in many respects Updike's most ambitious novel yet. Heavily researched and documented, it is the story of four generations of an American Protestant family, manifestly meant as the story of the moral and metaphysical history of America itself.

It starts on a spring day in Patterson, New Jersey, just outside New York City, where, even as Mary Pickford is making a silent historical movie for Griffith, and falling off her horse in the process, a Presbyterian minister, the Reverend Clarence Wilmot, who has exposed himself to the modern forces of reason and science, sickeningly feels the draining away of his religious faith.

Honorably resigning his very comfortable vocation, Wilmot becomes an ineffectual salesman of popular encyclopaedias in a Patterson now suffering a still-famous strike in its silk-mills, the defeat of which marked a triumph for modern American capitalism. He soon becomes a defeated, forsaken figure, haunting the movie houses for relief.

Influenced by his father's failure, blaming God for his betrayal of him, his son Tommy rejects the chance of life in booming commercial Twenties Manhattan, choosing instead the path of "minimal damage". He retreats with the family to become a mailman in the small-town of Basingstoke, Delaware, finally marrying the club-footed daughter of a market gardener.

John Updike: sensitive to the sensuality of everyday life

Movies, too, are the best way out of Delaware. Their lively, energetic daughter Essie does a spell of dubious modelling in New York, and eventually makes it to Hollywood, where she becomes a beautiful screen goddess (Alma DeMott) playing opposite Gable and Crosby. As post war history unrolls — the superpower age, the Eisenhower years, McCarthyism — she moves from tarnished ingenue to big-screen harlot, making many marriages, growing more obsessed by her image, telling through her movie performances the story of her own and America's ageing.

The cycle is completed by her one son, Clark. A neglected Hollywood brat, he inherits his grandfather's instinct for withdrawal, and retreats to Colorado's hippy ski-country. He is drawn into a fundamentalist religious community, run by a charismatic who owes much to David Koresh, and becomes the sect's PR man. God has returned to America with a millennialist vengeance: the story ends with a government siege and the torching of the community.

In a good number of his novels, Updike has explored the fate of faith and its secular alternatives in his religious nation, founded on Protestant dreams and still seeking new Utopias. This is his most ambitious vision of the subject yet, exploring, in the big scale, the spirit of a secularising nation in which divine promises are constantly sullied, but never quite entirely die. The contrast between the Reverend Wilmot's pained and yet clear-minded understanding of the modern challenge to faith and Jessie Smith's vengeful and paranoid Utopia is a measure of the distance travelled, and of the contemporary confusions of the American dream.

Updike is here the grand chronicler; he's a devout local chronicler as well. He once said the impulse of his writing was towards "instinctive realism" and now his work has become almost Victorian in its detail.

Once his writer's sensuality largely went into the world of couples, and their couplings. Now it spreads into the physical stuff of daily existence: the stained glass windows of a presbytery, its staircases and knotted newel posts, the savour of a Twenties drugstore, the motion on a trolley-car filled street, the hard work of a market garden, all get his best attention. The research is loving, solid. Oddly, the driest and least convincing segment is about Hollywood and the movie industry; the finest, most felt scenes are those of Wilmot's religious crisis, which come alive as the crisis of a generation and an age.

Modernist critics used to condemn the extended family saga as the "burgher novel", a traditional and Victorian form. Yet several writers of our generation — Robertson Davies, for instance — have revived it, finding it a living way to explore the equation of history, social detail and the evolution of moral existence in a fast-changing society.

In this sense Updike — a writer of enormous skills, capable of a wide range of forms — has reverted to something that is classic and traditional in the novel, and some admirers will no doubt prefer earlier and more flamboyant books. But *In the Beauty of the Lilies* — the title comes from *The Battle Hymn to the Republic* — is also a novelist's lovingly registered, epical narrative of a 20th-century America caught between God and celluloid dreams, Victorian certainty and modern doubt, the new humanism and a grim millennial rage. It takes its place among his finest books.

Struggle to be at ease in Zion

Christopher Walker

JERUSALEM IN THE 20TH CENTURY
By Martin Gilbert
Chatto & Windus, £20

"There is no place which arouses such deep, fanatical feelings as does Jerusalem," observed a former deputy mayor of the holy city, Meron Benvenisti. "There is no other place where one feels the tragedy of two nations fighting for their homeland more than in Jerusalem ... He who decides to judge between the two sides must remember that only in fairy-tales is one side all good and the other all bad."

For these reasons, no other capital so small that some outsiders (notably Jewish residents of Tel Aviv) refer to it as "provincial" has attracted such a dazzling array of chroniclers. The latest to join a line which in the past 30 years has seen distinguished contributions from authors as varied as Saul Bellow, Colin Thubron and Amos Elon, is Sir Martin Gilbert, famous as the biographer of one of Britain's most ardent, non-Jewish Zionists, Winston Churchill.

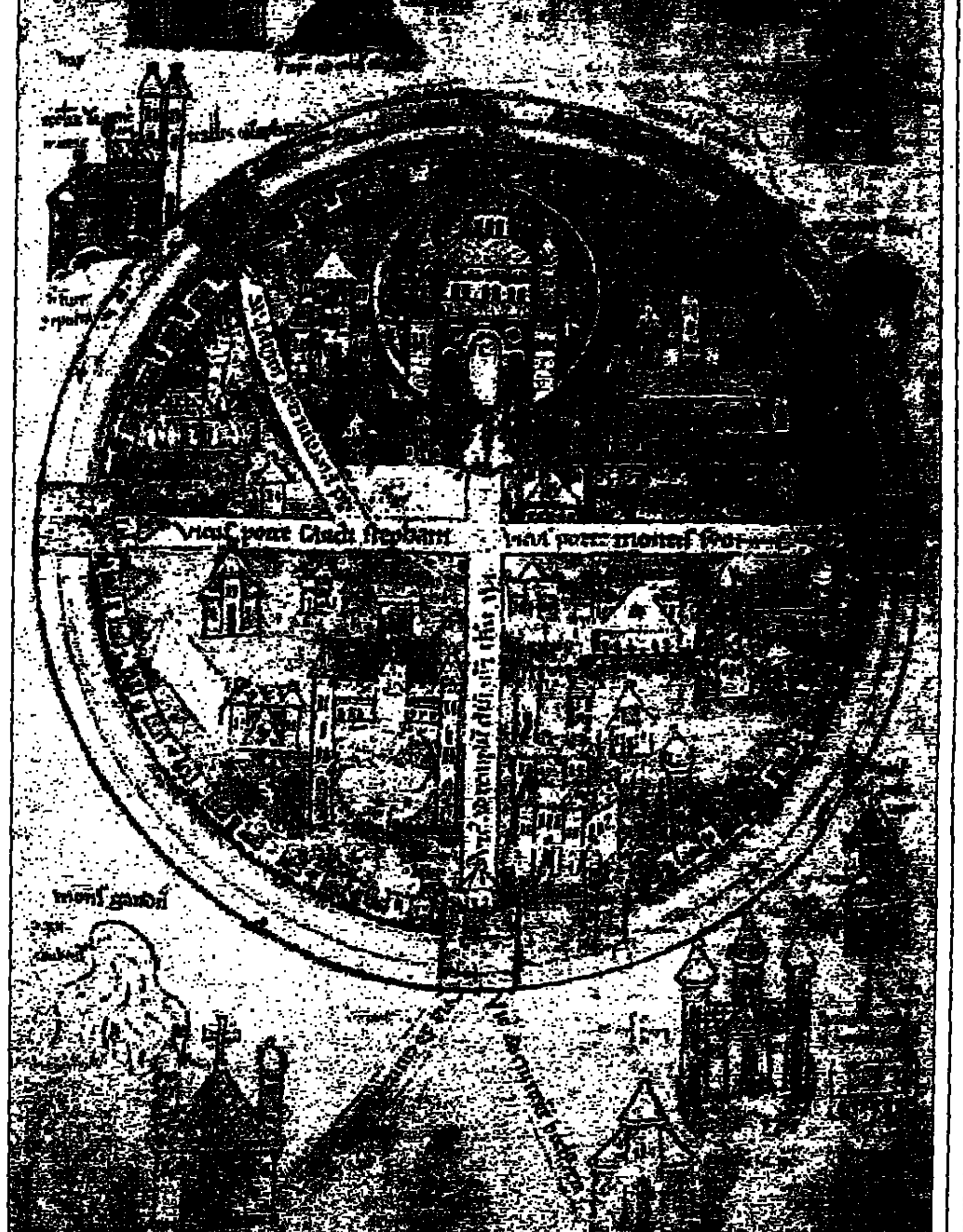
Gilbert makes no bones about his own identification with the Zionist cause, while taking Benvenisti — whom he quotes at length — to heart by not trying to disguise some of the uglier aspects of Israel's struggle to retain control over what most politicians claim is its "eternal and undivided" capital. We learn that the young Gilbert first arrived in 1971 and two years later was performing the unenviable task, undertaken by a number of Jewish student volunteers, of going to break the news to parents bereaved in the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Impeccably timed for publication less than a month before negotiations on the final status of Jerusalem are due to open between Israel and the Palestinians, the final part of Gilbert's fascinating and admirably readable two-volume history is essential and enjoyable background material. Anyone wanting to understand the Jewish side of arguments that are certain to grab headlines and could, if not resolved, threaten another war more dangerous than the five already fought since the foundation of the Jewish state 48 years ago, is recommended to consult it.

But for an understanding of the equally potent Arab case as to why annexed east Jerusalem should become capital of a future Palestinian state and the reason why millions of Muslims profess a willingness to fight a jihad to bring that about, other works are required. Gilbert's publishers do him a disservice by linking his richly sourced history with the overhyped Jerusalem 3,000 celebrations, a shabby public relations stunt ignored by most of the world and even shunned by many Jews. Supposedly celebrating the 3,000th anniversary of the founding of the kingdom of David, even the date 1996 is widely disputed. Gilbert gives the game away when he reveals that similar third millennium celebrations were held in 1953-54.

Gilbert's *Jerusalem in the 20th Century* is at its unhappiest when he dons his propagandist's hat and uses shamelessly selective quotations to back his advocacy of continued Israeli sovereignty over east Jerusalem, conquered from Jordan in 1967, and still unrecognised by all but a handful of governments (which is why all the major embassies are an hour's drive away in Tel Aviv).

The book is at its best, and in my experience, unmatched for sheer breadth of acutely observed historical detail, when charting the breathtaking pace of events from the twilight of Turkish rule through the British mandate and the ruthless terrorist campaign against it by two Jewish underground groups — each including a future Israeli Prime Minister — to the bloody birth of the state and the continuing violence, despite the faint rays of hope prompted by the 1993 peace accord, between Israel and the Palestinians.


From *City Of the Great King*, ed. Nitza Rosovsky (Harvard, £25.50): one of 14 extant Crusader maps showing the streets of 12th-century Jerusalem in the form of a cross

As well as dealing with the political and religious aspects of the Jerusalem question, Gilbert employs his masterly control over anecdote and prodigious researching energies (or perhaps those of his wife, Susie) to produce a compulsive portrait of life there at different periods of the 20th century.

He records the hilarity engendered when the British decided to move Government House to the unfortunately-named Hill of Evil Counsel, so called because Judas had sold Jesus there for 30 pieces of silver. He quotes the first British military governor of Jerusalem, Colonel Ronald Storrs, who captured the city's elusive charm with remarkable lyricism: "Not the hopeless beauty of Venice, the embalmed majesty of Thebes, the abandon of Ferrara, or the melancholy of Ravenna," he confided to his diary in 1917. "But something past yet unalloyed and throbbing, that seems to confound ancient and modern, and to undate recorded history."

Although the two recent Islamic suicide bombs were too late for inclusion, Gilbert has the perspicacity to grasp the significance of what is perhaps the ugliest phenomenon in the Arab-Jewish violence which overshadows every chapter. He quotes the Palestinian recruiter in a similar attack in 1995 as telling his interrogators cynically: "Hamas does not waste senior members with proven military successes on suicide missions. Our suicide bombers are merely human fuses replacing a chemical or electrical device."

While recognising the extraordinary passions provoked by the city immortalised for Israelis in the haunting song *Jerusalem of Gold*, Gilbert provides little reassurance that they can be reconciled.

Putting on the brakes

Gabriel Josipovici

SLOWNESS
By Milan Kundera
Faber, £12.99

Effortlessly, it seems, Milan Kundera has established himself in the West as both a highly popular and a highly admired writer. His curious blend of Czech brashness, sexual explicitness and 18th-century cool has endeared itself to a public frightened of the supposed austerities of High Modernism and bored by novels still written as though nothing had happened, in the world or in the history of the form, since Dickens and Thackeray.

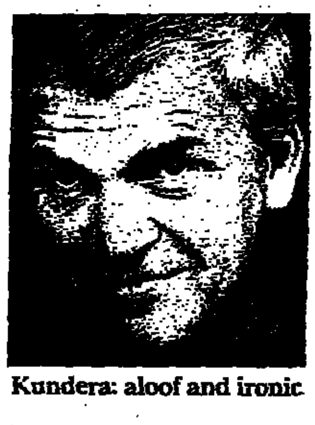
Kundera has been living in Paris for a considerable time now, and has been criticised in his native country for his apparent lack of interest in publicly standing up to communism and his determination to remain an exile. But Kundera is more like Nabokov than like Havel or Grass, aloof, ironic, drawing on Kafka, Broch and Musil as well as the 18th century in his battle against bad faith in both the public and the private realms.

His last book, *Immortality*, was much his best, and it is no coincidence that it was the first to be set in his adopted, not his native, land. As with Nabokov in *Lolita*, the struggle to come to terms with an alien world led to a new openness, a new generosity, both moral and formal. The present book, though, his first novel to be written in French, is a major disappointment.

Driving with his wife to a country hotel, an old château, the author becomes aware of the mania for speed that seems to seize the French when they get into a car or onto a motorbike. Arrived at the hotel, he meditates on the contrast between this modern phenomenon and the 18th-century quest for slowness. More than a quest, an entire philosophy. And he recalls a story by an 18th-century writer about a night of love, set in this very same château and its grounds, where the refusal of immediate consummation is precisely the point, a work both erotic and wise.

He lets his mind wander over the character and deeds of various Frenchmen he knows, and recalls another story about a night spent in a château, this time in the course of a meeting of an entomologists' convention, which reaches its climax in a farcical series of erotic encounters. We move in and out of the 18th and 20th century narratives, in and out of the mind of the author and his wife as they settle in, until the moment when they leave the next day.

The book starts promisingly enough, with its meditation on speed and slowness, but, as so often with Kundera, his desire to have it both ways, to tickle the reader with the promise of sexual high-jinks and at the same time to distance himself ironically from such writing, completely backfires. The book trails off into a weak farce, bereft of ideas or feelings. It is not so much offensive as tedious, even though it is barely over 100 pages long.


Kundera: aloof and ironic

In *Immortality* Kundera's admirable gift for revealing the bad faith behind all romantic posturings was offset by his own awareness of the complexity of human character and his evident love for some of the people he had invented. Here there is nothing but coldness and distaste, and his desire to have the reader see the book as a latter-day *Rasselas* or *Les Bijoux Indiscrets* only draws attention to the gulf between himself and Johnson and Diderot.

To say that Linda Asher's translation doesn't help matters is an understatement. I have never come across a book more badly translated. It is an absolute disgrace and Faber should ask themselves how they ever let it see the light of day in this form.

Gabriel Josipovici is Professor of English at Sussex University

Wanted: spoons, porter, Bible

Robert Nye

A CHOICE OF COLERIDGE'S VERSE
Edited and Introduced by Ted Hughes
Faber, £7.99, paperback original

COLERIDGE
Selected Poems
Edited by Richard Holmes
HarperCollins, £20

TWO DAYS after his wedding, Coleridge wrote to his friend, the publisher Joseph Cottle, asking him to furnish a list of household requirements. On the list, between "two large tin spoons" and "a keg of porter", he asks for a Bible. Religion, as much as food and drink, was part of the fabric of his life.

Criticism of the poet disregards this at its own peril. Ted Hughes admits it only to regurgitate the conventional view of Coleridge as a man killed by metaphysics. In *A Choice of Coleridge's Verse* he posits a Christian Coleridge and a Pagan Coleridge, and tries to explain all in terms of their conflict.

His method is to seize on a few of the metaphors which Coleridge employed to define his thought and to relate those metaphors to "the cult of the Female in religious tradition". More supernatural biology than literary criticism, full of stuff about shamans and cauldrons and orifices, alligators in rut and other lust-mad giant reptiles, the result is not so much Xanadu as *Jurassic Park*. Certainly it tells more about Hughes than it does about Coleridge. No credit is given to Robert Graves's *The White Goddess* (1948), though its shadow lies on every page.

Hughes follows fashion by insisting that Coleridge's best work was done between 1797 and 1798, ignoring the fact that *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* did not reach its final form until 1817 and that even *Kubla Khan* was probably being altered as late as 1816. Containing only 27 poems, his selection concentrates on the "visionary" Coleridge and more or less ignores the Coleridge of the confessional and conversational poems.

Textually unreliable, the book omits the last lines of *The Pains of Sleep*, so readers will not hear one of the most moving and revealing of Coleridge's cries: "To be beloved is all I need./ And whom I love, I love indeed".

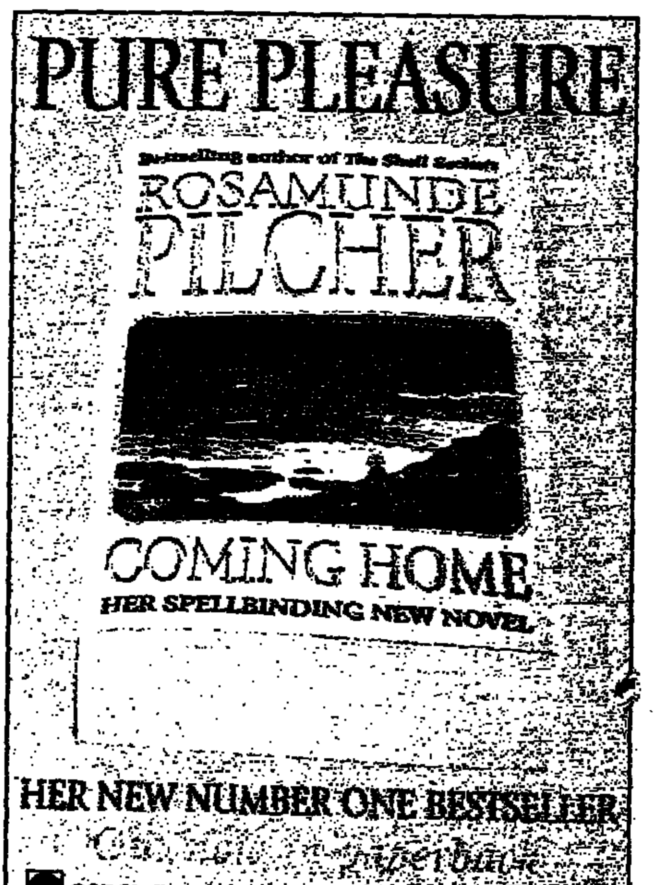
Richard Holmes's *Coleridge: Selected Poems* is a more serious piece of work. Holmes has been engaged for a decade on a biography of Coleridge — the second volume is due to appear next year. This selection grew naturally out of his research on that biography. He tells us how he carried photocopied poems about with him in a battered folder which became a "private, travelling edition of what I loved best and what intrigued me most about Coleridge's haunting work".

Briefly, Holmes wants to transform Coleridge's reputation by means of this selection of 101 poems, thematically arranged, and find him a new generation of readers who will appreciate him *whole*, not just as an opium-inspired dreamer. Holmes knows what he is up against: "Young readers do not like the idea of the Romantic poet growing old."

But then Coleridge knew this too, and time after time made poems from "the troubling visitations of the young self upon the old self", as well as from other awarenesses of his own shortcomings. This selection reveals him again as a great poet in many moods and modes, not neglecting any aspect of his protean genius, while Holmes's prefaces to each section and notes at the back on individual poems can be read as an essay as good as any on the subject.

Spoons, porter, Bible: here is Coleridge in graspable form. Unlike Hughes, it includes the first draft of *Dejection: An Ode* in the shape of that wonderful *Letter to Sara Hutchinson* — 338 lines composed during a single stormy night of April 1802, and only discovered in this century.

RODDY DOYLE
THE WOMAN WHO WALKED INTO DOORS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هذا من الأصل

To do our duty from an English dorm to dusk

Michael Sissons on a sensitive examination of three lives overshadowed by war and their ideals of service

THE FATAL ENGLISHMAN
by Sebastian Faulks
Hutchinson, £16.99

Wood: committed suicide at 29

Hillary: killed flying at 23

Wolfenden: a mysterious death?

In the title of *The Fatal Englishman* is an implicit riddle. Ostensibly, Sebastian Faulks's compelling and stunningly written triple biography offers separate accounts of the lives of three young Englishmen in this century. They were of successive generations, and they all died young. But, while suggesting links in his preface, Faulks invites us to contemplate what constitutes a fatal Englishman. Most readers will be intrigued to determine their own vision of what unites these characters. I can only offer mine.

"In the spring of 1921 a beautiful young Englishman set off for Paris to become the greatest painter the world had ever seen." This was Christopher Wood, 19 years old. He had been at two public schools, Marlborough and Malvern, and over him, as over all his generation, lay the terrible shadow of the boys who had gone from those schools to the trenches.

He was from a conventional Edwardian family, and his father, a medical officer throughout the war, viewed with alarm his ambition to be a painter. In Paris, through the salon of Alphonse Kahn, he met many of the artistic talents assembled there after the war. He embarked on an affair with a Chilean diplomat, Antonio de Gandarillas, which proved the only constant emotional attachment of his life.

He fell in love with opium, thanks to Jean Cocteau, who encouraged him to believe in his talent as a painter. He was commissioned by Diaghilev to design the ballet *Romeo and Juliet*. None of this deterred him from falling in love with Meraud Guinness, a dilettante painter whose family viewed with horror her engagement to Wood and took urgent steps to nip it in the bud.

The story of these shenanigans is richly comic, including the inconvenient interruption of a piles operation for Gandarillas. Returning to London in 1926 Wood was an opium addict, and Meraud had been headed off at the pass by her family to marry one Alvaro Guevara, famous as "a drunk, a poser, and a bore". While Wood made a steady reputation as painter, it has surely settled down as something less than "the greatest painter the world has ever seen". He threw himself in front of a train at Salisbury station at the age of 29.

Richard Hillary was one of the most glamorous and heroic figures of the Second World War. His account of his experience as a Spitfire pilot in the Battle of Britain, *The Last Enemy*, is an enduring contribution to the narrative of combat.

Born of Australian parents, he endured a conventional public school education at Shrewsbury and was at Oxford, joining the university air squadron, when war broke out. His war was a short one. "The Battle of Britain picked off its pilots with remorseless probability," and by the time he was terribly burnt in a crash which left him in the North Sea, most of the friends with whom he had learnt to fly were dead.

It stirred me to read the moving account of Hillary's endless operations at the hands of the plastic surgeon Archibald McIndoe at Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead. My own father was killed in the retreat to Dunkirk. When my mother remarried, my stepfather, who had also joined up from university in 1939, had been terribly injured in the run-up to D-Day and endured 19 operations at East Grinstead: I will never forget the wards full of disfigured airmen.

In *The Last Enemy* Hillary echoed the French flyer St Exupéry's talk of "a death of flame and ice". He was desperate to return to active service, but was not fit to fly. Finally he bullied the authorities into allowing him to retrain; on an appalling January night in 1943 he killed his navigator and himself crashing into the ground. "He was only 23 when he died, and he spoke like an old man."

Jeremy Wolfenden was a friend and contemporary of mine. I was not as close to him as some, like Neal Ascherson or Godfrey Hodgson. But he was, for me, the brightest of my generation at Oxford.

He was very funny, and there was no vestige of condescension to anyone: a most attractive characteristic in an Oxford dominated by the social and intellectual snobbery of the odious John Sparrow, Warden of Old Souls. He was cheerily, blatantly, and indiscriminately homosexual, while his father was chairing the Government Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution.

I for a time shared a house in Oakley Street with some Oxford friends who included Jeremy. My abiding memory is of the night made hideous by the sounds of crashing crockery from the kitchen as Jeremy wrestled with Canadian sailors picked up in Piccadilly.

With the reform of homosexual law the dominant social theme of the day, Jeremy was a chancer: today the Editor of *The Sun* might have licked his lips. Jeremy won an All Souls fellowship but went to Moscow for *The Daily Telegraph*, an appointment at which we looked askance. He was an archetypally anti-Establishment figure, and foreign assignments with *The Daily Telegraph* meant connections with British Intelligence.

Faulks is at his best in the hilarious picture that he paints of Wolfenden in Moscow, caught up in the spying case involving Greville Wynne and Oleg Penkovsky in 1962. Drinking heavily, he was set up by the KGB, whose cameras caught him misbehaving in the Hotel Ukraina.

Meanwhile, to our surprise, he married an English nanny who was also in Moscow and became implicated in the Wynne trial. He moved to New York then back to Moscow, then to Washington. Was he, we wondered, a British agent, a double agent, or triple agent? He died in 1965, the autopsy suggesting chronic alcohol abuse and death from liver failure.

Some of us have always wondered whether he was done away with by the CIA or the KGB or, given his capacity for irreverence and mischief, conceivably both. He was 31.

What threads can be run between these three short lives? Were they very English lives? I think they were. All three had conventional backgrounds against which in varying degree they had rebelled. A shared token of their rebellion was their difficult, often bitter, relationships with their fathers.

It is hard to see Wood fitting into the ranks of the golden generation who died on the Somme. Hillary went to war in observance of those ideals, but by his death had an icy personal detachment from them. Wolfenden was of the Suez generation, as I was. We went to Eton and Winchester respectively, schools still educating us to serve an empire which by then barely existed.

In retrospect, Anthony Eden did us a great service with the Suez fiasco in disentangling us from this myth. Indeed, three direct contemporaries of mine at Winchester, whose self-destruction was chronicled last year in Ved Mehta's book *Up At Oxford*, might just as easily have been candidates for *The Fatal Englishman*. Alasdair Clayre, one of them, was a Fellow of All Souls.

Perhaps Faulks believes that his three subjects shared a death wish. At the time of their deaths, there was something morbid about all three. Was this the condition of men living in a world and a century dominated by war, yet confused by the perceptions of duty and service to which they had been educated and whose cloying effects could not be escaped?

For many, it is also to do with the realisation that life can never finally live up to the high expectations of the public school prefect. I remember as one of the best days in my life, early in the 1960s, when I at last felt that we might not have to go to war, as our fathers and grandfathers had done. I know that there was something of the morbid, perhaps also of the fatal Englishman, in me. I hope that at least we are no longer breeding fatal Englishmen.

Michael Sissons is joint chairman of Peters, Fraser and Dunlop

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Improbably possible: this freakish toad with eyes in the roof of its mouth is said to have been found in a Canadian garden

The most amazing journey

Mark Ridley

CLIMBING MOUNT IMPROBABLE
by Richard Dawkins
Viking, £20

The improbability in Dawkins's title is life itself. To see how improbable life is, you only need consider one molecule from a living body.

Alcohol dehydrogenase is only one of the body's molecules — it detoxifies alcohol. It is an enzyme, and consists of a chain of unit molecules called amino acids; for it to work properly the right amino acids have to be in the right order. An alcohol dehydrogenase molecule might still function if it had one or two wobbly amino acids; but anyone with more than a few deviations would not survive long in places containing civilised amounts of alcohol.

There are 20 kinds of amino acid units that can occur in an enzyme. If you picked one at random, the chance that it would be right for the first link in the alcohol dehydrogenase chain would be one in 20. If you hit luck, your chance of then picking the right second amino acid would again be one in 20: the chance of picking both at random is 1/20 x 1/20, or 1/400. And so on, for about 250 amino acids. A one in 20 here, a one in 20 there, and pretty soon you are talking real improbabilities. One in 20 multiplied by itself 250 times is a chance so small that you could have assembled amino acid sequences at random for all the history of the universe and never made alcohol dehydrogenase. And yet it is only one of many enzymes: about 60,000 enzymes (and related molecules) are needed to build a human body.

Richard Dawkins's new book aims to explain how life nevertheless is possible. Evolution by natural selection works gradually over long periods of time. In Dawkins's metaphor of Mount Improbable, the improbable peaks we call life are reached by climbing in a sufficiently large number of small steps. He tackles two main objections. One is that Darwinism works by chance: in Dawkins's metaphor, it is as if evolution tried to jump to the mountain peak in one leap. The other is that natural selection could not favour the initial stages of complex organs that only work as a finished product: as if the peak were surrounded on all sides by a ravine and a gradual ascent were impossible.

The first is a confusion that remains popular with imperfectly educated physicists, who like to use their self-accredited superior mathematical skills to put woolly-minded biologists in their place. Dawkins quotes some entertaining specimens. He comments: "It is grindingly, creakingly, crashingly obvious that if Darwinism was really a theory of chance, it could not work." The alleged defect in the theory is really the starting-block problem that the theory is designed to solve.

For the second objection, Dawkins analyses two examples in detail: the evolution of flight and of the eye. These sections will not only persuade open-minded sceptics, but also be a marvellous read for people already convinced by Darwin's explanation.

Dawkins is a genius of science popularisation. If you have not read one of his books before, *Climbing Mount Improbable* is a wonderful place to begin: it is non-stop mental and literary pleasure. Some of its themes will be familiar to readers of his previous books, but the prose is so enjoyable, and the exposition so superb, that no one will regret revisiting them.

The new book is also distinct in several ways. One is its biological range. The arguments contained in it are not made with odd illustrative examples, but with a delightful range of furry, feathered, buzzing, creeping, and stinging natural history. There are also a great many — maybe 100 — pictures, one of them rude.

The book is also good on "artificial life", or virtual evolution. Dawkins has helped to inspire the subject, and pioneered research in it. He describes actual work that has been done in the field, on virtual spider webs for instance, and then uses the general philosophy to reconsider the "selfish gene" view of the meaning of life. He begins with computer viruses. The simplest are little more than "duplicate me" programmes; they will automatically spread in certain kinds of cyber-environment.

He ends with elephants. "Like the virus DNA, [elephantine DNA] is fundamentally a Duplicate Me progamme but it contains an almost fantastically large digression as an essential part of the efficient execution of its fundamental message. That digression is an elephant."

"Henry More, in 1653, believed that cattle and sheep had only been given life in the first place so as to keep their meat fresh 'till we shall have need to eat them'." But life did not climb Mount Improbable to be useful to us, or for any higher purpose. Life just happens. The mountain is climbed because it is there.

Mark Ridley is a lecturer in biology at Oxford University.

Simon is a cunning hunter

Adolf Eichmann's escape from Germany in 1950 was not surprising. Disinterested governments had long ceased their search for one of the architects of the Holocaust, while the mass murderer himself, supported by a Nazi-funded ratline, a sympathetic Vatican bishop and the International Red Cross sailed to liberty in Argentina.

Left behind by the murderer was a continent gripped by Cold War fever and anxious to rebuild war-shattered lives. Wilfully, Europeans had ignored the success of most Nazi war criminals in escaping justice. Only a handful resented that betrayal of the millions who had died, and among them was Simon Wiesenthal.

Miraculously, the truculent Polish Jew had survived four years in German extermination camps, repeatedly escaping imminent execution by a mere whisper. After his liberation, Wiesenthal dedicated himself to Nazi-hunting. "No Nazi murderer," he said, "however old he may be, will be allowed to die in peace."

But by 1954, even Wiesenthal's doggedness, despite some notable arrests, was waning. His original American benefactors had long departed and his Austrian hosts had enthusiastically reinfected their society by reinstating the worst Nazis to influential positions. Poor and obstinately independent, Wiesenthal noted that while Eichmann was certainly alive, there were no clues to his whereabouts. With that, he terminated his unfashionable quest.

Six years later, everything changed. Israeli agents kidnapped Eichmann from Argentina and that sensational operation was followed by an epic trial in Jerusalem in 1961. Attitudes towards the spectre of unprosecuted Nazi monsters were revolutionised.

ERICH LESSING, MAGNUM

Dedicated: Simon Wiesenthal (right) and his wife (centre) at home in Vienna, 1975

Tom Bower

SIMON WIESENTHAL
By Hella Pick
Weidenfeld, £20

Responding to the revulsion spreading across Europe and America, Wiesenthal publicised his hunt for Eichmann, appearing to invent a contribution to Israel's manhunt. Overnight, bestselling books and Hollywood glorified Wiesenthal as the heroic Nazi-hunter, transforming him into a focus for those comforted by a (albeit mythical) worldwide dragnet for thousands of other Eichmanns.

In truth, Wiesenthal had hardly contributed to Eichmann's discovery. As he reopened his Documentation Centre in Vienna and revelled in self-publicity, those responsible in Israel and West Germany for capturing Eichmann were furious. Their repressed anger combined with Wiesenthal's other critics among the irascible Jewish community in New York transformed Vienna's Avenging Angel into a smouldering controversy.

Quite simply, Wiesenthal never realised the enormity of the injustice he was exposing. Ignorant about the Allied recruitment of incriminated Nazi scientists, intelligence officers and politicians, Wiesenthal publicised the mystery but offered few solutions and no analysis. While in Austria he was properly outraged by the Socialist party's pact with former Nazis to retain power, he was silent about the worse cover-up that had happened in West Germany.

Occasionally, Wiesenthal's international efforts to find Nazi murderers were outstandingly successful — yet he made serious mistakes. His hunts for Martin Bormann and Josef Mengele were major disasters and his criticism of the celebrated French Nazi-hunters, Serge and Beate Klarsfeld, was tasteless.

His suggestion that the East German regime was "more riddled with Nazis" than West Germany's was manifestly wrong. Worst of all was Wiesenthal's refusal immediately and outrightly to condemn Kurt Waldheim for his association with Balkan massacres.

Wiesenthal's claim, endorsed by Hella Pick, that there was no evidence that the former UN Secretary-General and Austrian President had committed a war crime, was at best pernickety and at worst an unpardonable own goal. For his critics, in Israel and New York, it confirmed their suspicions of his dishonesty.

And yet, as Hella Pick's generous and valuable tribute to Wiesenthal shows, he was often unjustly maligned. In the intensified, occasionally competitive hunt for Nazis, his principal detractors (sadly, mostly Jews) had not passed through the extermination camps and could not fathom the psychological trauma ingrained upon the survivors.

Undoubtedly his critics' antagonism hurt Wiesenthal, not least when they maliciously cast doubt on his extraordinary account of surviving the Holocaust. But dissenters like Wiesenthal invariably possess the resourcefulness to survive.

Hella Pick properly minimises the inconsistencies and flaws of Wiesenthal's life. After all, regardless of his imperfections, the 87-year-old is the Keeper of the Flame — for that, even his critics should be respectful.

CHRISTOPHER WOOD
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THE TIMES / DILLONS FORUM

Why we exist

Richard Dawkins

RICHARD DAWKINS, the controversial biologist, will argue at a *Times* / Dillons forum that Darwin has the answers to all Nature's complexities.

The forum, on April 25, marks the publication of Professor Dawkins's book, *Climbing Mount Improbable* (Viking, £20). He will discuss the difference between accident and design in Nature and show how DNA has progressed through geological time.

Chaired by Sir John Maddox, the former editor of *Nature*, the forum will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50), which include £3 off the price of Professor Dawkins's book, are available by phoning 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below on 0171-915 6611, or by sending the coupon and your remittance to Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be purchased.

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Dods pays Scotland's penalty

By Mark Souster

THE Scotland rugby union squad to tour New Zealand shows two surprising casualties from the XV that started the entire five nations' championship campaign; Michael Dods has been dropped and Bryan Redpath is injured. The 30-strong party, a blend of experience and youth, has five representatives from Melrose, eight uncapped players of whom six are among the forwards, and a strong physical back division picked with the specific challenges of New Zealand in mind.

That has counted against the slightly-built Dods, as has his indifferent form as a place-kicker. His success ratio was only 47 per cent in the championship, reinforcing the difficulties Scotland have had in replacing Gavin Hastings. In announcing the decision at Murrayfield yesterday, Jim Telfer, the SRU director of rugby who will be tour manager, said: "His goalkicking record wasn't high enough and he wasn't considered good enough for a wing position."

The exact diagnosis on Redpath is unclear but is akin to a stress fracture of his lower back and the cure is rest and recuperation this summer. It is apparently a long-standing injury that has reduced his effectiveness in matches to about 75 per cent, too big a risk for the demanding eight-match tour in May and June.

Andy Nicol is the beneficiary. The former Dundee scrum half has forced his way back into the Bath first team and although he and Gary Armstrong may not have the same quality of service as Redpath, they are good defenders and strong runners with the ability to make a break; they will undoubtedly benefit from the new laws which stipulate that the eight forwards must remain bound at the scrummage.

Elsewhere in the back division, Tony Stanger, a veteran of the 1990 grand-slam side but still only 27, and Derek Stark have been recalled on the wing. Stark has filled out and regained his appetite for the game and has enjoyed a purple patch in 1996. He won the last of his four caps in 1993. Stuart Lang, the raw but promising Heriot's FP full back, is also included.

Tom Smith, of Watsonians, and Barry Stewart, from Edinburgh Academicals, are the props joining David Hilton and Peter Wright. Telfer said Smith was an outstanding rugby-playing prop, who has come through on merit despite not appearing for the A team with which Stewart has earned his plaudits. Nick Broughton, who has cousins in the Shetland Islands, only arrived in Scotland from Invercargill last autumn and returns to New Zealand sooner than expected as Ian Smith's understudy. Stuart Reid, Andy Reed and Shade Munro are all injured but will be on stand-by.

Telfer described the tour as the toughest Scotland had ever undertaken although Broughton is optimistic. "New Zealand are going through a period of change and have a new coach in John Hart. Some of the players don't know where they stand so it's a prime time to take them," he said.

SQUAD AND ITINERARY

SCOTLAND SQUAD: R Shepherd (Melrose), S Lang (Heriot's), C Joiner (Melrose), K Logan (Stirling County), A Stanger (Hawick), D Stark (Boroughmuir), R Eriksson (London Scottish), S Hastings (Watsonians), I Jardine (Stirling County), G Shiel (Melrose), C Chalmers (Melrose), G Townsend (Northampton), G Armstrong (Newcastle), A Nicol (Bath), D Hilton (Bath), T Smith (Watsonians), B Stewart (Edinburgh Academicals), P Wright (Boroughmuir), G Ellis (Currie), K McKenzie (Stirling County), S Campbell (Dundee High School FP), D Cronin (Bourges), S Murray (Edinburgh Academicals), D Weir (Newcastle), N Broughton (Melrose), I Smith (Gloucester), R Wainwright (Watsonians, captain), P Walton (Newcastle), E Peters (Bath), B Renwick (Hawick).

ITINERARY: May 22: v Wanganui (Wanganui). 31: Northland (Whangarei). June 5: Waikato (Hamilton). 8: Southland (Invercargill). 11: South Island (Blenheim). 15: New Zealand (Dunedin). 18: Bay of Plenty (Rotorua). 22: New Zealand (Auckland).

Honourable conclusion to season of mixed fare

RAF.............................23
Army...........................31

By Peter Bills

THE Army ensured a triple tie in the Inter-Services rugby union competition, sponsored by Willis Corroon, by comfortably toppling the RAF in the sunshine at Twickenham yesterday. It was the most entertaining game by far of the 1996 competition.

It was the first triple tie since 1992, but, for the Army, there was only the frustration of knowing that the title should have been theirs. Almost certainly it would have been, had they not lost by the odd penalty goal in five to the Royal Navy in the opening game.

The absence from their ranks of Tim Rodber and Rob Wainwright that day — on international sevens duty in Hong Kong — probably cost the Army their first outright title since 1990.

Certainly, there was no disputing the Army's vast superiority in this match. Somehow, astonishingly, the RAF clung on to a 6-3 interval lead despite suffering a pounding in the 15 minutes before the break.

In the first half, Fowers, Wainwright, Hunter, Stewart and Pinder were all either held up over the RAF line or stopped inches short. The brave, scrambling defence of the RAF, especially up front, was commendable, but plainly it could not last, especially if the Army eliminated their mistakes.

They did that and, after Knowles had levelled the scores shortly after the restart, Johnson ran 50 metres for the opening try after Worrall had missed touch badly and Wainwright picked up a difficult pass on the counter-attack.

The power of the Army forwards was vital and the RAF thus never had the base up front to play the expansive game that they sought, despite some bold attempts.

Another series of forward drives led to Rodber putting Sanger over near the posts: Knowles's conversion made it 18-6. Morgan, the RAF flanker, replied straight from the restart, with the first of his two late tries that exposed the Army's momentary lack of concentration, but the Army's finish was conclusive.

Knowles landed two more penalty goals before converting Johnson's interception try from 60 metres out. That made it 31-11 and all that remained was for Sharp to finish off Lazenby's break for a try and Morgan to add another in a flurry of late substitutions.

Nothing, though, could hide the Army's ascendency.

SCORERS: RAF: Tries: Morgan (2), Sharp. Conversion: Lazenby. Penalty goals: Lazenby (2). Army: Tries: Johnson (2), Sanger. Conversions: Knowles (2). Penalty goals: Knowles (4).

RAF: SAC A George (RAF Innsworth), SAC G Sharp (RAF Rudloe Manor), Sgt S Lazenby (RAF Cosford), Cpl S Roke (RAF Wyton), Flt Lt R Underwood (RAF Cranwell), Cpl N James (RAF Cranwell), Sgt S Worrall (RAF Cottesmore), APO J Thorpe (Yorkshire UAS), Sqn Ldr R Miller (RAF Wyton), Jnr Tech B Williams (RAF Brize Norton), Sgt C Morgan (RAF Brize Norton), SAC P Taylor (RAF Northolt), SAC L Oakey (RAF Brize Norton), Jnr Tech S Boote (RAF Cosford), Flt Lt C Moore (RAF Rudloe Manor). Thorpe replaced by Chief Tech D Robson (RAF Odiham, 34min); Roke replaced by Cpl R Alexander (RAF Boulmer, 67). Worrall replaced by SAC B Walder (RAF Lyneham, 79).

ARMY: Lt R Abernethy (RGR); Lt B G W Johnson (Royal Signals), Cpl A J Sanger (RE), Sgt L Douglas (APTC), Capt H J Graham (RA); Lt P Knowles (RRF), Capt S Pinder (DWR), L Cpl M Stewart (PWRR), Capt J S Brammer (RE), Sgt J Fowers (RHA), Spr R S Hunter (RE), Lt A Newsham (RHA), Capt J Dahinten (RHA), Capt R Wainwright (RAMC), Capt T Rodber (GH). Sanger replaced by Lt C Waggett (QDG, 77), Graham replaced by Cpl M D Watters (RWF, 79); Fowers replaced by S Sgt D J Coghlan (RHA, 79).

Referee: R C Rees (London).

DES JENSON

Roke's tackle cannot prevent Sanger from scoring the Army's second try yesterday

Time catches up with Smith

TIM SMITH, the second-highest points-scorer in Gloucester's history to Peter Butler, is to retire from senior rugby union at the end of this season. Smith, who kicked 11 points when Gloucester beat Bath 16-10 last Wednesday, is considering a move into local club rugby and also has ambitions to join Richard Hill's coaching team at Kingsholm.

Smith, who will be 34 next month, has made 348 first-team appearances in 14 years at Gloucester. "I don't want to finish, but there comes a time when you know you have to," Smith said. "It takes me two to three days now to get over a big game because I am still trying to do as much as I did ten years ago."

Thierry Lacroix, the former France threequarter, is negotiating a three-year contract with Natal, which could mean that he will effectively play out his career in South Africa.

"I am finally finished with France," Lacroix, 29, said. "When I went back to France from Natal last year, I realised immediately that there was antagonism against me and that I was no longer welcome in the side. The team spirit was also not what it should be. It is no longer a pleasure to play for France."

Lacroix, though, has also been offered a lucrative contract by Harlequins. "I will weigh up the various contracts and make a decision then," he said.

☐ Cockermouth, the Cumbrian club, have been relegated two divisions in the Courage Clubs Championship after falsifying a match result card for their North West I game against Blackburn.

Baker still spurred by Faldo's forecast

From Mel Webb in Cannes

TIME was when Peter Baker was touted in golf as the next Nick Faldo. How things have changed. This week Faldo is basking in the warm glow of a third Masters victory while preparing for the Heritage Classic; Baker is making yet another stop on the PGA European Tour, attempting to kick-start a career that has ground to a halt.

Baker, who plays in the Cannes Open that starts at Royal Mougins today, was first mentioned in the same breath as Faldo when he took the Benson and Hedges title at Fulford in 1988, in the process becoming the last player anywhere to beat the great man in a play-off.

Baker, then a fresh-faced 21-year-old, needed an eagle at the last to take Faldo to sudden-death. He got it. Outrageously, he then bagged another at the 18th, the first extra hole, to win.

Everybody saw the engaging youngster from the Black Country as the next great hope of English golf. Faldo was unstinting with his praise. "He's the star we've been waiting for," he gushed.

And then, nothing. It was a struggle until 1993, when Baker won the British and Scandinavian Masters and made his Ryder Cup debut, taking three points out of four. Since then, he has made little progress towards fulfilling Faldo's prediction. But he is still optimistic. "I have time on my side. I feel I've got another ten good years in me," he said.

"Even at the end of 1993, the bad old habits were still there, and I've had to work hard to get rid of them."

Could this be his year? "Yes, my target is eight victories," he said, straight-faced. "Some people might say one or two, but eight seemed like a nice figure." For the gullibly inclined, this is, perhaps, the right moment to say that he was joking.

Jameses set pace in race for golf title

ROBBIE and Mark James strode impressively through two more rounds of the Father and Son golf tournament, at West Hill, Surrey, yesterday at their first appearance in this company (John Hennessy writes). Their thunder was momentarily stolen by the Stradlings, of Rye and nearby Worplesdon, however, who achieved a stunning albatross at the 503-yard 5th against the Hubbards, of Burhill.

Stuart Stradling, the father, followed a superb drive by his son, Rory, with a four-wood from 225 yards which obediently swung round into the hole.

The Jameses have reached the last 16 without yet having to go beyond the 16th.

Results, page 45

Norman rises above the talk of the town

John Hopkins joins three wise men of golf as they gaze in wonder at a fallen star

The Masters had ended two days before and golf's travelling circus had moved east, from the Augusta National Golf Club to Hilton Head Island. Wherever golfers gathered at the Harbour Town Golf Links, where the MCI Classic starts today, there was only one topic of conversation — the extraordinary events in the fourth round of the Masters on Sunday.

For years, Greg Norman has dominated the world of golf by virtue of his victories, his wealth and his lifestyle. Now he was dominating every conversation by virtue of his spectacular collapse, in which he shed a six-stroke lead. No one in golf had been talking about anything else since the moment Nick Faldo won his third Masters with an 11-stroke swing over Norman.

As Colin Montgomerie, Frank Nobilo and Jeff Maggert started the homeward half of their first practice round at Harbour Town, the talk was of their new putters, graphite shafts and the rangefinder binoculars that are all the rage on the tour. Suddenly, the noise of a cannon being fired to mark the start of the tournament's opening ceremony split the air. Montgomerie looked at Nobilo, Maggert at his caddie. As one, they said, laughing: "Norman's yacht."

"Norman", "Greg", "Nick", "collapse", "gracious", "extraordinary", "astonishing" were the words that hung in the warm afternoon air the way one brief passage of a symphony can keep popping into the mind. If, for a moment, Montgomerie might have been thinking of something else, then Norman's yacht was another reminder. "It's huge," Montgomerie said. "It's moored just along from my condominium. I can see right into it. I can see what Greg's watching on television."

Montgomerie had only got halfway to his drive when the subject of Sunday afternoon came up once more. "Nick won that tournament when he finished birdie-par on Saturday to make sure he played with Greg the next day," Montgomerie said. "If Greg had played with Phil Mickelson he would have free-flowed it. Phil's no threat. He's a wee boy. Greg would not have been six ahead, he would have been seven; but with Nick he was only three ahead.

"Greg should not have allowed Nick to intimidate him. We are all taught to play our own game but Nick is the best in the world at creating an aura. There is no reason for it. Greg Norman has been the best in the world for two years. Nick has not contested in major championships in that time."

While Norman and Faldo were dominating the Masters, Nobilo was finishing fourth. "It was difficult to watch the scoreboard and difficult not to," Nobilo said. "You wanted to, yet you didn't want to because you knew how it was relevant to you."

As Montgomerie concluded his round at Augusta, recording a second 75, Norman and Faldo were on the 7th. "Had I been watching what was going on?" Montgomerie said. "Of course I had. I was history. I was going to be 35th or something. Did I believe what I was seeing? Yes, I did. Why? Because it was Faldo and we all know Nick Faldo. And because it was Greg and we all know Greg. It was astonishing, even so."

So Montgomerie, Nobilo and Maggert continued their practice round, which was more an analysis of what had happened two days earlier than a proper examination of the course.

"You know it takes a good person to win but a great person to lose well," Montgomerie said as he approached the 16th green. "Both Nick and Greg came out of Sunday very well." Montgomerie was asked if he could have coped as well as Norman had done with such a collapse. He turned his head to one side. There was a long pause. "I'd like to say yes but ... I hope I never find out." Another pause and then he asked: "Could Nick?"

On the 18th green, as Montgomerie was lining up his putt, an aircraft suddenly roared overhead, banking sharply as it turned to land.

Montgomerie looked up. "That's Greg's plane," he said excitedly. "It had a Reebok shark on the tail fin. That's incredible isn't it?" Faldo was already at Harbour Town. Now Norman had arrived, too.

And so the round ended as it had begun — with Norman's name on everyone's lips.

> 'Both Nick and Greg came out of Sunday very well'

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European Cup Winners' Cup
Semi-finals, second leg
Paris Saint-Germain (1) v
Deportivo la Coruña (0) (8 0) .....
Rapid Vienna (1) v Feyenoord (1) ....

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Witney v Ashford, Yate v Tonbridge Angels.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Kingstonian v Dulwich. Second division: Banstead v Hungerford: Bracknell v Edgware, H Hempstead v Canvey Island. Third division: Aveley v Tring, Northwood v Harefield.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton v Tottenham (2.0). Charlton v Swindon (7.0). Second division: Cardiff v Birmingham (2.0).

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Everton v Tranmere (7.0): Leeds v Oldham (7 0): Nottingham Forest v Sheffield Utd (7.0): Sheffield Wednesday v Stoke (7.0) Second division: York v Coventry (7.0).

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Dundalk v St Patrick's Ath (7.45)

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Senior division: Leverstock Green v Holmer Green, Ampthill v Totternhoe, ACD FC v Stony Stratford T, Houghton v Bedford United.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bristol Manor Farm v Mangotsfield.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Burscough v Kidsgrove; Flixton v Bootle, Newcastle Town v Clitheroe.

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Wisbech v Diss, Woodbridge v Fakenham

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Furness v Beckenham

SCHOOLS MATCH: Essex Johnson Cup: Newham v Havering (at Langdon, 5 30)

CRICKET

County match
11 0, first day of three
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Yorkshire

University matches
11 30 to 6.30, second day of three
FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Glamorgan
THE PARKS: Oxford University v Durham

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Southampton (final day of tour). Second XI champions (Hampshire) v England Under-19

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Championship play-offs: Quarter-finals, second leg: London v Thames Valley (8 0); Birmingham v Derby (8.0)

BOWLS: Men's English indoor championships (Melton Mowbray).

GOLF: Father and Sons tournament (West Hill).

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Ipswich v Hull (7.30): London v Eastbourne (7.30): Middlesbrough v Swindon (7 30). Speedway Star Cup: First round, first leg: Sheffield v Bradford (7.45).

BUILDING SOCIETIES ACT 1986

CONFIRMATION HEARING

NATIONAL & PROVINCIAL BUILDING SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given that National & Provincial Building Society has applied to the Building Societies Commission to confirm, under section 98 of the Act, the transfer of its business to Abbey National plc and the terms of the transfer.

Any interested party has the right to make written or oral representations, or both, to the Commission with respect to this application.

Written representations must reach the Commission by 12 noon on 13 May 1996.

Written notice of intention to make oral representations must also reach the Commission by 12 noon on 13 May 1996.

The Commission intends to hear oral representations on 3 June 1996 and will advise intending participants of the time and place.

The Act provides that the Commission must confirm a transfer unless it considers that:

(a) some information material to the members' decision about the transfer was not made available to all the members eligible to vote; or

(b) the vote on any resolution approving the transfer does not represent the views of the members eligible to vote; or

(c) there is a substantial risk that the successor company will not be authorised under the Banking Act 1987; or

(d) some relevant requirement of the Act or the rules of the Society was not fulfilled.

The address of the Building Societies Commission is 15 Great Marlborough Street, London W1V 2LL.

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YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Newmarket

Going: good to firm

2.00 (7f) 1, Tawaaded (R Hills, 33-1). 2 Really A Dream (11-2). 3, Charlotte Corday (50-1). Kerry Ring 5-4 fav. 16 ran. NR: Chloe's Anchor. 1l, 3½l. P Walwyn. Tote: £48 10; £8 00, £2 10, £5 40. DF: £167 80. Trio, not won (pool of £590.22 carried forward to 3.05 at Newmarket today). CSF: £201.98. 1min 23 96sec

2.35 (7f) 1, Tarawa (R Hughes, 10-1, Thunderer's nap): 2, Monaassib (8-1). 3, Roving Minstrel (6-1). Blomberg 9-2 fav 14 ran. Sh hd, 2½l. N Callaghan. Tote. £10 00; £3.10, £2.70, £1.80 DF: £30.90 Trio. £42.40 CSF: £73.23 Tricast: £432 89. 1min 22 60sec. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood

3.05 (1m 1f) 1, LUSO (M J Kinane, 14-1). 2, Smart Alec (L Dettori, 6-4 fav): 3, First Island (M Hills, 4-1). ALSO RAN, 11-2 Desert Shot (6th), 7 Restructure (5th), 10 Gabr (4th), 20 Beauchamp Jazz, Sacrament, 50 Lear White. 9 ran Hd, 1½l, ¾l, 2l, ¾l. C Brittain at Newmarket. Tote: £15.70; £2.40, £1 50, £1 50. DF: £17.80. Trio £25 00. CSF: £33 92. 1min 47.96sec.

3.40 (7f) 1, CAYMAN KAI (Pat Eddery, 7-2 jt-fav): 2, Projection (M Hills, 8-1). 3, World Premier (B Doyle, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 jt-fav Tumbleweed Ridge (5th), 5 Desert Boy (6th), Lucky Lionel, 16 Gothenberg (4th), Yarob. 8 ran. 1¾l, nk, 1l, 1l, nk. R Hannon at East Everleigh. Tote: £3 70. £1 60, £2.10, £2.20 DF. £19.20 CSF. £27.31. Tricast £198.33. 1min 22.98sec

4.15 (1m 4f) 1, Progression (M Baird, 9-1): 2, Speed To Lead (5-1 fav): 3, Opera Buff (11-2). 15 ran. NR: Beaumont. 2l, 1½l. C Murray. Tote: £9.90; £2.50, £2.40, £2.00. DF. £23.80. Trio: £33.50. CSF. £48 81. Tricast: £251.59. 2min 28 80sec. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

4.45 (5f) 1, Carmine Lake (J Reid, 1-2 fav): 2, Dame Laura (20-1); 3, Sica Key Sica (25-1) 6 ran. 2½l, 2½l. P Chapple-Hyam Tote: £1.50; £1.20, £2.30 DF: £6.20 CSF: £9.37 0min 59 35sec.

5.20 (1m) 1, Farasan (G Carter, 16-1). 2, Whitewater Affair (14-1). 3. Shantou (9-1) Master Boots 7-2 jt-fav. 20 ran. NR: Alzeus. Sh hd, 2½l. H Cecil. Tote. £27.00: £5 60, £6 80, £3.50. DF: £492 00. Trio £375.50 (part won, pool of £476.00 carried forward to 3 05 at Newmarket today). CSF: £221.70. 1min 36 62sec

Jackpot: not won (pool of £14,279.51 carried forward to Newmarket today).

Placepot: £216.10. Quadpot: £10.60.

Pontefract

Going: good

2.45 (5f) 1, Foot Battalion (F Lynch, 14-1): 2, Swino (13-2): 3, Wait For Rosie (100-30 fav) 12 ran Sh hd, 1l. R Hollinshead. Tote: £20 70: £6.00, £2.50, £1 40 DF. £105.80. Trio £50 10. CSF. £105.86

3.20 (6f) 1, Splicing (K Fallon, 6-1): 2 Whittle Rock (16-1). 3, Royal Ceilidh (8-1) Sondos 4-1 fav 15 ran. NR: Gagajulu 2½l, ¾l. W Haggas Tote: £5 80: £2.50, £4 00, £2.90. DF: £101.60. Trio £88 50. CSF £89.85. Tricast £732 46

3.50 (1m 2f 6yd) 1, Election Day (K Darley, 7-4), 2, Axford (13-8 fav): 3, Sweetness Herself (9-1). 12 ran. Nk, 9l M Stoute Tote. £3 00; £1 70, £1.20, £2.60. DF: £2 60. Trio. £18 90. CSF: £5.20. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

4.25 (1m 4yd) 1. Raindeer Quest (M Henry, 6-1); 2, My Handsome Prince (33-1): 3. Waterford (8-1). 4, Framed (7-2 fav) 18 ran. NR, Bella Coola, Tandridge. 2½l, 1¼l. J Eyre Tote: £7.90; £1.70, £8.20, £3 50, £1 90 DF: £79 40 Trio: £267.90 (part won, pool of £301.97 carried forward to 3 05 at Newmarket today). CSF: £181.43 Tricast £1,559.55. No bid.

5.00 (1m 4yd) 1, Cheerful Aspect (K Fallon, 13-2), 2, Arabian Story (15-8 fav): 3, Flying North (20-1). 7 ran Nk, hd. E Dunlop Tote: £7 50; £3.20, £1 70. DF £13.70. CSF £18.69.

5.30 (1m 2f 6yd) 1, Carlito Brigante (K Fallon, 11-4 fav): 2, Curtelace (14-1). 3, Locorotondo (8-1). 4, Fighting Times (50-1). 18 ran. NR: Battleship Bruce. 2½l, ¾l. Mrs J Ramsden. Tote: £3.50, £1.30, £3.00, £1 80, £15 60. DF £28.30. Trio: £148 30. CSF: £38.89 Tricast: £262 65.

6.00 (1m 2f 6yd) 1, Don Vito (T Sprake, 9-4), 2, Kass Alhawa (6-4 fav); 3, Blurred (25-1). 11 ran. Nk, 6l R Charlton Tote. £3.10; £1.80, £1.30, £3.10. DF: £3 00 Trio: £59.20. CSF: £5.92

Placepot: £279.50. Quadpot: £12.10.

Cheltenham

Going: good to soft, good in places

2.20 (2m 5f ch) 1, Trying Again (R Dunwoody, Evens fav), 2, Air Shot (7-4). 3, Tothewoods (10-1). 7 ran. 4l, 19l. D Gandolfo. Tote: £1.90. £1 40, £1 40. DF: £1.90. CSF: £2.99.

2.55 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Tight Fist (M A Fitzgerald, 16-1). 2, Headwind (5-2 fav). 3, Halona (50-1). 23 ran. NR: Around The Gale, Youbetterbelieveit 1½l, ½l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £22 60; £4.10, £1.80, £15 40. DF: £30.50 Trio: £519.00 (part won: pool of £328 99 carried forward to 3.05 at Newmarket today). CSF £51.81 After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

3.30 (4m 1f ch) 1, Holland House (Mr C Vigors, 6-4 fav); 2, Hermes Harvest (7-2); 3, Catchapenny (20-1) 14 ran. 7l, 2½l P Cheesbrough. Tote. £2 60; £1.60, £2.40, £3.90. DF: £4 50 Trio £21.20. CSF. £7.25.

4.00 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1. Sun Surfer (S Wynne, 8-1): 2, Jimmy's Cross (11-2); 3, Castle Secret (14-1) Mcinik 9-2 fav 15 ran. 1¾l, 8l. Capt T Forster Tote: £10 10. £3.10, £1 80, £3.60 DF: £32 20 Trio: £69.90. CSF: £50 08. Tricast £569.02

4.35 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Mister Oddy (M A Fitzgerald, 9-2); 2, James The First (6-1); 3, Spinning Steel (8-1) Medinas Swan Song 9-4 fav (f). 7 ran. 22l, 26l. J King. Tote: £6.60; £2.70, £2.10 DF: £7 40 CSF: £28.23.

5.10 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Valley Garden (A P McCoy, 5-1). 2, El Freddie (25-1); 3. Tellicherry (11-2). 4. Fantastic Fleet (20-1). Hale Denning 4-1 fav. 23 ran NR. Rascally, Spa Kelly. 2½l, 4l J J O'Neill. Tote. £5.90; £1 70, £3 90, £1.80, £6 50 DF £84.00. Trio. £323.60 CSF: £121.67. Tricast. £679 24.

Placepot: £62.10. Quadpot: £19.40.

RIPON

THUNDERER
2.30 Statesman. 3.00 Sea-Deer. 3.30 Taufan Boy. 4.00 Nabhaan. 4.30 Raheen. 5.05 Able Sheriff. 5.35 Wixim.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
3.30 FURZAN (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.30 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND SHAROW MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,420: 5f) (10 runners)

1	(9)		BEN'S RIDGE P Haslam 9-0	J Fortune	–
2	(6)		BOLD BRIEF Denys Smith 9-0	L Charnock	–
3	(3)	5	BOLERO BOY 14 (BF) M W Easterby 9-0	Dale Gibson	–
4	(4)		DOUBLE ACTION T Easterby 9-0	M Birch	–
5	(5)	5	MR FORTYWINKS 28 J Eyre 9-0	R Lappin	–
6	(1)		PLAN FOR PROFIT M Johnston 9-0	J Weaver	–
7	(10)		ROMAN IMP A Jarvis 9-0	J Tate	–
8	(2)		STATESMAN M Channon 9-0	K Darley	–
9	(8)	6	THE BEE MAN 6 M W Easterby 9-0	T Ives	–
10	(7)		YOUNG BIGWIG J Berry 9-0	J Carroll	–

3-1 Statesman, 7-2 Double Action, 4-1 Plan For Profit, 5-1 Young Bigwig, 6-1 The Bee Man, 7-1 Mr Fortywinks, Bolero Boy, 8-1 others.

3.00 COPT HEWICK CLAIMING STAKES (£2,600: 5f) (10)

1	(6)	04-0	LAGO DI VARANO 10 (B,D,G,S) J Berry 4-9-7	J Carroll	88
2	(8)	-140	SUPER ROCKY 56 (CD,F,G) R Bastiman 7-9-6	H Bastiman (5)	83
3	(2)	5432	SEA-DEER 43 (D,F,G,S) D Chapman 7-9-5	A Culhane	75
4	(7)	0-03	LA SUQUET 10 (D,F) N Tinkler 4-9-4	T Ives	89
5	(5)	40-0	JOHN O'DREAMS 10 (D,F,G,S) Mrs A King 11-9-0	A Garth	61
6	(10)	230-	COMIC FANTASY 184 (B,D,F) M Wane 3-8-11	K Darley	[illegible]
7	(4)	0/0	OHNONOTAGAIN 73 B Murray 4-8-10	T Williams	–
8	(3)	0	OLD HUSH WING 6 P Haslam 3-8-10	J Fortune	–
9	(1)	-005	BITCH 59 (B,F) G Kelly 4-8-9	P Roberts (5)	55
10	(9)	00-0	RANKAIDADE 9 (D,S) E Incisa 5-8-9	Kim Tinkler	–

3-1 La Suquet, 7-2 Sea-Deer, 4-1 Super Rocky, Comic Fantasy, 9-2 Lago Di Varano, 8-1 John O'Dreams, 10-1 others

3.30 COCKED HAT COCK O'THE NORTH HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £5,494: 1m) (9)

1	(6)	413-	JO MELL 196 (G) T Easterby 9-7	M Birch	92
2	(1)	10-0	AL SHAFA 12 (F,G) J Dunlop 9-6	K Darley	88
3	(8)	100-	TAUFAN BOY 187 (G) P Harris 8-11	G Hind	[illegible]
4	(2)	00-3	FURSAN 16 N Graham 8-8	D Harrison	86
5	(9)	5-P4	CATHERINE'S CHOICE 28 J Bethell 8-6	J Fortune	82
6	(7)	5-00	YEZZA 14 A Jarvis 8-6	J Tate	80
7	(3)	36-6	KAZIMIERA 12 W Elsey 8-5	P Fessey (5)	97
8	(4)	10-3	WHISPERING DAWN 10 (D,BF,G,S) M Channon 7-12	F Norton	88
9	(5)	2542	THEATRE MAGIC 19 (G) S Bowring 7-11	N Carlisle	95

3-1 Fursan, 4-1 Jo Mell, Theatre Magic, 6-1 Al Shafa, Whispering Dawn, 8-1 Taufan Boy, 10-1 Yezza, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Charlton, 3 winners from 6 runners, 50.0%; H Cecil, 16 from 35, 45.7%; A Jarvis, 4 from 13, 30.8%; W Hern, 3 from 11, 27.3%; J Gosden, 12 from 45, 26.7%; J Dunlop, 8 from 33, 24.2%.

JOCKEYS: R Cochrane, 14 winners from 60 rides, 23.3%; W Ryan, 17 from 74, 23 0%; J Weaver, 16 from 79, 20.3%; K Darley, 30 from 152, 19.7%; J Tate, 7 from 49, 14.3%; D Harrison, 3 from 24, 12.5%.

4.00 FARM FED CHICKEN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,623: 1m 4f 60yd) (7)

1	(5)	4-05	SAMIM 12 (B,G) J Dunlop 9-7	K Darley	93
2	(6)	00-2	NABHAAN 10 (F) D Morley 9-3	R Cochrane	98
3	(2)	6-40	CLASSIC LOVER 15 R Harris 9-0	A Mackay	90
4	(3)	56-2	NOSE NO BOUNDS 8 (G) M Johnston 8-13	J Weaver	98
5	(1)	000-	HAL HOO YAROOM 177 W Hern 8-13	W Ryan	95
6	(4)	-310	BURNT OFFERING 28 (G) C Brittain 8-8	G Duffield	[illegible]
7	(7)	22-1	JACKSON PARK 22 (D,S) T Easterby 8-7	M Birch	96

9-4 Nabhaan, 5-2 Nose No Bounds, 11-4 Jackson Park, 5-1 Burnt Offering, Samim, 8-1 Classic Lover, 16-1 Hal Hoo Yaroom.

4.30 PAUL RHODES AND HIS MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: 3-Y-O: £3,193: 1m) (15)

1	(4)	5	ABSOLUTE UTOPIA 16 E Dunlop 9-0	J Tate	64
2	(5)	435-	GULF OF SIAM 197 Miss S Hall 9-0	K Darley	67
3	(15)	4-3	HENRY ISLAND 16 G Wragg 9-0	A Clark	86
4	(11)		NO-AMAN W Hern 9-0	T Sprake	–
5	(7)		NORDIC GIFT Mrs D Thomson 9-0	O Pears (3)	–
6	(12)		PENYGARN GUV'NOR J Glover 9-0	S D Williams	–
7	(6)	234-	RAHEEN 245 M Stoute 9-0	D McKeown	[illegible]
8	(9)	0	RICCARTON 8 P Calver 9-0	M Birch	–
9	(8)	2-	UNREAL CITY 183 H Cecil 9-0	W Ryan	83
10	(10)		BRIGHT PET Mrs S Smith 8-9	N Connorton	–
11	(14)	3-	CATUMBELLA 226 J Gosden 8-9	J Carroll	78
12	(13)	0	DISPOL GEM 10 G Oldroyd 8-9	R Cochrane	69
13	(3)	00-	KUDOS BLUE 189 J Bethell 8-9	T Williams	–
14	(2)	03-	MISS PRAVDA 188 P Walwyn 8-9	D Harrison	75
15	(1)	50-	MISS PRISM 192 J Dunlop 8-9	G Duffield	–

11-4 Unreal City, 3-1 Raheen, 9-2 No-Aman, 5-1 Henry Island, Catumbella, 12-1 Bright Pet, 16-1 Penygarn Guv'nor, 20-1 others.

5.05 NEWBY APPRENTICE HANDICAP (£2,871: 5f) (13)

1	(3)	1202	CHADWELL HALL 10 (B,D,G,S) S Bowring 5-9-10	J Edmunds (3)	87
2	(7)	2112	STAND TALL 20 (BF,G) C Thornton 4-9-7	G Mills (10)	[illegible]
3	(12)	0-00	MAID O'CANNIE 8 (B,F,S) M W Easterby 5-9-7	D Sweeney (3)	85
4	(8)	3550	KALAR 14 (B,D,F,G) D Chapman 7-9-1	K Sked (5)	90
5	(6)	2056	FEATHERSTONE LANE 14 (V,D,F,G) Miss L Siddall 5-9-0	T Siddall (10)	98
6	(10)	0-00	PENNY'S WISHING 10 (G) N Bycroft 4-8-11	Jo Hunnam	93
7	(11)	-050	ARC LAMP 10 (C,D,F,G) J Glover 10-8-9	Victoria Appleby (8)	84
8	(1)	606-	ABLE SHERIFF 203 (B,D,F) M W Easterby 4-8-8	Oliver Casey	88
9	(13)	40-0	CHINA HAND 14 M Wane 4-8-6	J Dennis	93
10	(4)	-000	BAJAN FRONTIER 10 (D,G) F Lee 4-8-5	T Field (5)	87
11	(6)	-040	BLUE LUGANA 9 N Bycroft 4-8-4	J Wilkinson	84
12	(2)	0620	CHEEKY CHAPPY 35 (B,D,F,G) D Chapman 5-8-4	R Mullen (5)	96
13	(9)	00-6	MY GODSON 73 (B,D,F,S) J Eyre 6-8-2	P [illegible] (5)	91

5-2 Stand Tall, 4-1 Chadwell Hall, 6-1 Featherstone Lane, Able Sheriff, 8-1 Kalar, Cheeky Chappy, 10-1 others.

5.35 PAUL RHODES AND HIS MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: 3-Y-O: £3,193: 1m) (14)

1	(4)		BOLLIN JACOB T Easterby 9-0	M Birch	–
2	(10)	44-	FOURDANED 181 P Harris 9-0	G Hind	88
3	(1)	24-2	IAMUS 18 (BF) P Walwyn 9-0	D Harrison	[illegible]
4	(2)		LATIN LOVER M Camacho 9-0	L Charnock	–
5	(14)	0	LAZALI 14 E Dunlop 9-0	J Tate	–
6	(8)		RAISE A RIPPLE Mrs D Thomson 9-0	O Pears (3)	–
7	(11)	0	ROYAL RESULT 10 M Stoute 9-0	D McKeown	79
8	(9)	03-0	TAWAFEK 14 D Morley 9-0	R Cochrane	88
9	(13)	2	WIXIM 23 (BF) R Charlton 9-0	K Darley	90
10	(7)		CELIA'S RAINBOW M Bielby 8-9	J Fortune	–
11	(6)		ESQUILINE J Gosden 8-9	J Carroll	–
12	(12)		INDIPHAR F Lee 8-9	J Weaver	–
13	(3)	5-	PERPETUAL LIGHT 218 J [illegible] 8-9	Dale Gibson	–
14	(5)	00-	SALSIAN 175 S Williams 8-9	A Culhane	80

11-4 Esquiline, 4-1 Iamus, Wixim, 9-2 Fourdaned, 8-1 Tawafek, 12-1 Bollin Jacob, Royal Result, 14-1 others.

[illegible]

Pertemps steps in to sponsor Guineas

By Richard Evans

THE most important racing double witnessed at Newmarket for years saw two companies yesterday announce valuable sponsorship deals with major implications for the sport.

Two hours after Henry Cecil proudly donned a riding hat with Saab emblazoned alongside his initials, HRAC, Pertemps revealed details of important commercial backing for the 1,000 and 2,000 Guineas.

The leading independent staff recruitment company, which announced last August a four-year agreement, worth more than £500,000, to sponsor the St Leger at Doncaster, is chaired by Tim Watts, a committed racing enthusiast, but he insisted the sponsorship of Newmarket's two classics was based on a hard-nosed business and marketing approach.

Saab's decision to associate its gleaming horsepower with Cecil's Warren Place yard and its 170 thoroughbreds is initially for one year, as is the Pertemps package, although both companies hope to extend their backing if the investment proves worthwhile.

Cecil's sponsorhip offers more evidence to Customs and Excise that the beneficial VAT deal — which allows owners to reclaim VAT on training fees — is helping to bring extra revenue into racing. It is to be hoped that Customs officials will now accept once and for all the value of the scheme.

Cayman Kai's switch pays with Free Handicap win

Spotlight falls on Alhaarth

By Julian Muscat

THE N G K Spark Plugs European Free Handicap at Newmarket yesterday marked the second consecutive trial won by a horse without classic aspirations when Cayman Kai swept through to collar Projection in the manner of a much-improved colt.

The way is now clear for Alhaarth, odds-on favourite for the 2,000 Guineas, to endorse his merit in the Craven Stakes today. With Royal Applause and Mark Of Esteem due to contest the Guineas on their seasonal debut, Alhaarth's encounter with Beauchamp King, Pommard and Rio Duvida represents the definitive moment in the shaping of this classic.

Richard Hannon, who trains Cayman Kai, admitted as much when explaining how the colt came to take his chance in the Free Handicap. "We were going to run him at Newbury on Saturday but we changed our plans when we found out Alhaarth was supposed to go there," he said. "It's funny how these things work out; it was obviously the right decision."

A ball of speed last year, Cayman Kai relaxed in behind a strong pace before Pat Eddery brought him wide to challenge. The colt responded generously over this seven furlongs, which represented unknown territory. "This horse has a real racing brain," Hannon said. "He will switch off until you ask him. We didn't enter him in the Guineas because he looked like a sprinting type." His pedigree suggests otherwise.

Barry Hills, who trains the runner-up, Projection, doubted whether the form was up to classic standard. Hills has a more potent force at home in Royal Applause, who has pleased in his preparation. "He is a clean-winded sort and has not missed a day," Hills said. "We don't want to wind him up too much at home, but he will be ready on the day."

Both Hills and Hannon will be interested spectators when Alhaarth emerges from his winter's rest. Hannon took the opportunity to sing the praises of Regiment, his Easter Stakes winner, who represents him in the 2,000 Guineas here on May 4. "Regiment is very well. He works with the sprinters and can quicken with them, too. He shouldn't be underestimated."

If classic pointers were in short supply, Luso and Smart Alec contrived a thrilling finish to the Earl Of Sefton Stakes. The former just prevailed under a strong ride from Michael Kinane, and if the heart went out to Smart Alec on his first outing for 550 days, defeat would have been hard on Luso, who conceded 8lb.

Clive Brittain, who trains the four-year-old, can expect a profitable season for Luso. Smart Alec, for his part, has retained all his juvenile speed and now heads for the Lockinge Stakes over a mile. He may well influence the destination of miling honours this term.

Peter Chapple-Hyam revealed an extremely precocious two-year-old in Carmine Lake, who tormented some well-regarded fillies in the N G K Spark Plugs Bartlow Maiden Fillies' Stakes. Carmine Lake is bound for the Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot.

During this contest, Emma O'Gorman was thrown violently to the ground when her mount, Simply Times, pitched over within yards of the winning post. O'Gorman lay motionless for several minutes before she was taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. However, the initial prognosis was favourable.

"She was conscious at the time and could feel her legs and arms," said her father, Bill, who trains Simply Times. "It looked like the horse had broken a leg, but it eventually got up and walked away."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: SELECT FEW
(2.35 Newmarket)
Next best: Fursan
(3.30 Ripon)

Thunderer landed a good-priced nap with Tarawa (10-1) at Newmarket yesterday

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Cayman Kai and Eddery, right, claim an emphatic victory in the Free Handicap at Newmarket yesterday

Jockey Club fails to identify cause of Festival deaths

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

A JOCKEY CLUB investigation into the deaths of ten horses at last month's Cheltenham Festival yesterday failed to identify the cause of the carnage — and left officialdom praying it would not happen again. The number of fatalities at National Hunt's premier festival was three times the average over the past ten years.

After interviewing leading trainers, including David Nicholson and Jenny Pitman, and taking evidence from top jockeys, the Jockey Club's racecourse department concluded "no single factor, or indeed combination of factors, is to blame for the ten fatalities." David Pipe, the Jockey Club's director of public affairs, admitted: "We can't come up with any solution and we just hope it was a freak — a one-off."

The nearest the Jockey Club came to attributing blame was in pointing an accusing finger at Channel 4, whose televised coverage of the three days' racing included using cameras on vehicles running alongside or just ahead of the horses and pictures taken from an airship.

Jockeys said the vehicle-mounted camera had been a problem on one part of the chase course where the road was very close to the running-rail while some trainers felt the airship was a factor and drew a parallel with horses' fear of balloons passing overhead.

The report concluded there was a case for reviewing the use of vehicle cameras on racecourses, including Ascot, Haydock and Chepstow, where they were in close proximity to horses.

Similarly, it was suggested that officials moving around in fluorescent jackets and press photographers might cause a distraction, but there was no evidence that they had been a contributory factor in any death.

A variety of reasons have been offered since the Cheltenham Festival for the death toll, but all the popular theories were dismissed after exhaustive examination.

Trainers were unanimous that the ground was unlikely to have caused deaths. Few horses pulled up lame and none of the jockeys made complaints of inconsistent ground.

Despite the hard winter, trainers ruled out horses being less fit than normal and insisted they were 100 per cent sound before races. However, changes in training methods, such as interval training on uphill artificial gallops, might have an effect on the susceptibility of horses to injury.

The large number of runners was not a factor and although Festival races are always very competitive there was nothing to suggest they were run at a faster pace than in previous years. Fewer falls than usual occurred at the tough open ditches but dry subsoil meant "hurdles were stiff until they had been jumped once and may have contributed to heavier falls."

While the start of several races was widely criticised "the problems did not lead directly to any fatalities." Vets reviewed post-mortem reports of the deaths but even they were unable to identify any common factors.

It is hoped that the Cheltenham carnage was an unfortunate blip. If it happens again the Jockey Club should not expect to escape with such inconclusive findings.

NEWMARKET

THUNDERER

2.00 Princely Sound
2.35 Select Few
3.05 STORM TROOPER (nap)
3.40 Alhaarth
4.10 Hammerstein
4.45 Rude Awakening
5.20 Muchea

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.00 FARHANA.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.05 Storm Trooper. 4.10 Hammerstein.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.00 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS HANDICAP

(3-Y-O: £6,420: 6f) (16 runners)

101	(11)	21000-	NIGHT PARADE 265 (F) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-7	J Reid	87
102	(15)	614-114	BANZHAF 70 (G) (B Pesnick) G L Moore 8-11	S Whitworth	80
103	(13)	651061-	AKALIM 175 (CD,F,G) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) D Morley 8-11	W Carson	80
104	(7)	52134-	SONIC MAIL 245 (F) (Folly Road Partners 1995) K McAuliffe 8-9	J F Egan	84
105	(8)	21-1	FARHANA 8 (CD,F,G) (A Foustok) W Jarvis 8-7 (7ex)	T Quinn	[illegible]
106	(14)	0631-	WILDWOOD FLOWER 178 (D,F)(G Howard-Spink) R Hannon 8-6	Dane O'Neill (5)	83
107	(10)	32-2	DOMAK AMAAM 22 (BF) (Ahmed Al Maktoum) J Gosden 8-6	L Dettori	83
108	(9)	510-	XENOPHON OF CUNAXA 229 (D,F) M Fetherston-Godley 8-6	Pat Eddery	80
109	(4)	3-62112	BLUE FLYER 51 (BF,G) (Mrs A Cappuccini) R Ingram 8-5	W Woods	84
110	(1)	0-12211	WEETMAN'S WEIGH 21 (D,F,G,S) (E Weetman) R Hollinshead 8-4	K Fallon	80
111	(16)	002-	BLUE SUEDE HOOFS 177 (T Painting) B Meehan 8-3	B Doyle	80
112	(2)	461-	GALINE 146 (G) (G Fustok) W O'Gorman 8-1	S Sanders	80
113	(6)	02-4246	BADGER BAY 22 (M Hall) C Dwyer 8-1	N Varley (3)	80
114	(12)	504331	VICTIM OF LOVE 16 (G) (N Bryce-Smith) R Charlton 7-13	M Henry (5)	86
115	(5)	046-2	SEA DANZIG 16 (P Cook) P Howling 7-13	Paul Eddery	88
116	(3)	20-1410	PRINCELY SOUND 28 (D,G) (G Byrne) M Bell 7-11	J Quinn	90

BETTING: 5-2 Farhana, 6-1 Victim Of Love, 7-1 Weetman's Weigh, 8-1 Wildwood Flower, Night Parade, 10-1 Domak Amaam, Akalim, 12-1 others.

1995: CHEYENNE SPIRIT 9-7 W Ryan (10-1) B Hanbury 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

NIGHT PARADE 10l last of 7 to Almaty in group III Molecomb Stakes at Goodwood (5f, good).
AKALIM beat Erupt neck in 14-runner nursery at Nottingham (6f, good to firm).
FARHANA beat Polish Saga 8l in 17-runner handicap at Nottingham (6f, good).
WEETMAN'S WEIGH beat Golden Pond by a neck in 5-runner handicap at Leicester (5f 218yd, soft).
WILDWOOD FLOWER beat Samara 3½l in 18-runner maiden at Leicester (6f, firm). DOMAK AMAAM 1¾l 2nd of 6 to Waypoint in maiden at Lingfield (AW, 7f). BLUE FLYER beat Double-O-Seven neck in 7-runner conditions race at Lingfield (AW, 1m) on penultimate start, with BANZHAF (1lb worse off) 4l and neck 4th. BLUE SUEDE HOOFS 1½l 2nd of 19 to Thorfis in auction maiden at Leicester (6f, firm). SEA DANZIG short-head 2nd to Tymeera in 22-runner handicap at Nottingham (6f 15yd, good to soft).
Selection: FARHANA (nap)

2.35 NGK SPARK PLUGS HANDICAP

C4

(3-Y-O: £5,952: 1m 2f) (10 runners)

201	(10)	61-1	JACKSON HILL 28 (D,F,S) (J Wolfensohn) R Charlton 9-7	Pat Eddery	95
202	(2)	6231-	PRIZE GIVING 183 (F) (Lady Oppenheimer) G Wragg 9-6	M Hills	81
203	(6)	61-	DANCE ON A CLOUD 178 (F) (Hesmonds Stud) M Stoute 9-4	T Quinn	89
204	(3)	53-5	THREE HILLS 27 (BF) (K Abdulla) B Hills 9-1	W Carson	91
205	(9)	051-	SELECT FEW 202 (G) (Sheikh Mohammed) L Cumani 8-13	L Dettori	96
206	(8)	020421-	DAUNTING DESTINY 170 (F) (Gold Buster Synd) R Hannon 8-10	Dane O'Neill (5)	90
207	(1)	000-2	HAMLET 31 (BF) (M Hardin) M Bell 8-8	M Fenton	90
208	(4)	0-43112	GALAPINO 43 (D,BF,G) (Dayspring Ltd) C Brittain 8-8	B Doyle	[illegible]
209	(7)	32564-1	TABRIZ 19 (G) (Pheasant Partners) J Bethell 8-5	S Sanders	94
210	(5)	400-	JEAN PIERRE 177 (P Burnett) J Pearce 7-10	G Bardwell	80

Long handicap: Jean Pierre 7-4.

BETTING: 7-4 Jackson Hill, 9-4 Select Few, 5-1 Three Hills, 10-1 Dance On A Cloud, 14-1 Daunting Destiny, Tabriz, Prize Giving, 16-1 others.

1995: INDONESIAN 8-5 M Fenton (14-1) M Bell 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

JACKSON HILL beat Deadline Time head in 18-runner handicap at Doncaster (1m 2f 60yd, good to soft). PRIZE GIVING beat Unreal City neck in 11-runner maiden at Yarmouth (7f, firm). DANCE ON A CLOUD beat Apache Len 2l in 11-runner maiden at Leicester (7f, firm). THREE HILLS about 14l 5th of 11 to Summer Spell in maiden at Doncaster (1m 2f 60yd, good to soft). SELECT FEW beat Ashanti Dancer 3l in 13-runner maiden at Goodwood (1m, good). DAUNTING DESTINY beat Jerry Cutrona head in 16-runner nursery at Redcar (1m, firm). GALAPINO 8l 2nd of 7 to Le Sport in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 100yd). TABRIZ beat Theatre Magic by ½l in 10-runner handicap at Beverley (1m 100yd, good).
Selection: JACKSON HILL

3.05 FEILDEN STAKES

C4

(Listed race: 3-Y-O: £11,268: 1m 1f) (13 runners)

301	(8)	2111-	BONARELLI 223 (F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 9-0	M J Kinane	87
302	(10)	331112-	WEET-A-MINUTE 173 (F,G) (E Weetman) R Hollinshead 9-0	K Fallon	91
303	(11)	45131-0	BELIEVE ME 12 (C,F,G) (B Adams) R Hannon 8-11	R Hughes	91
304	(12)	10-2	CENTRE STALLS 12 (S) (A Pye-Jeary) R Johnson Houghton 8-11	B Thomson	92
305	(7)	14-	HERON ISLAND 202 (S) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11	J Reid	96
306	(3)	21643-	JACK JENNINGS 208 (F) (G Whitaker) B McMahon 8-11	G Carter	92
307	(4)	410004-	KALA SUNRISE 185 (F) (A Needham) C Smith 8-11	W Woods	82
308	(6)	541110-	MAWWAL 208 (C,F,G) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) R Armstrong 8-11	R Hills	98
309	(13)	1-1	PROSPECTOR'S COVE 12 (G,S) (Saracen Racing) J Pearce 8-11	G Bardwell	94
310	(1)	113-	SOUTH SALEM 303 (F,G) (Mrs V Kraft Payson) D Loder 8-11	L Dettori	94
311	(5)	01-	ST MAWES 253 (F) (Lord Swaythling) J Dunlop 8-11	T Quinn	80
312	(2)	5212-	STORM TROOPER 194 (S) (Fahd Salman) H Cecil 8-11	Pat Eddery	[illegible]
313	(9)	21-	TAWKIL 244 (F) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) B Hills 8-11	W Carson	87

BETTING: 9-4 Storm Trooper, 7-2 Bonarelli, 4-1 South Salem, 8-1 Mawwal, 10-1 Heron Island, 12-1 Believe Me, Prospector's Cove.

1995: MUHWAR 8-11 W Carson (9-2) P Walwyn 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BONARELLI completed treble beat Mushahid head in 5-runner listed race at Goodwood (1m, good). CENTRE STALLS 1l 2nd of 10 to Regiment in listed race at Kempton (1m, good) with BELIEVE ME 9l 9th. HERON ISLAND about 2l 4th of 8 to Even Top in listed race here (7f, good). JACK JENNINGS 5l and neck 3rd of 8 to Mons in group II Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot (1m, good) with MAWWAL 10l 7th. PROSPECTOR'S COVE beat Prince Of My Heart ½l in 7-runner conditions race at Kempton (1m 2f, good). SOUTH SALEM 2l and short-head 3rd of 13 to Royal Applause in group III Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot (6f, good to firm). STORM TROOPER 1½l 2nd of 5 to Beauchamp King in listed race at Ascot (1m, soft).
Selection: BONARELLI

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.40 CRAVEN STAKES

C4

(Group III: 3-Y-O colts and geldings: £19,692: 1m) (5 runners)

401	(4)	11111-	ALHAARTH 188 (C,F,S) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) W Hern 9-0	W Carson	[illegible]
402	(2)	31111-	BEAUCHAMP KING 180 (D,F,G,S) (E Penser) J Dunlop 9-0	J Reid	98
403	(5)	311213-	POLARIS FLIGHT 162 (G,S) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	Pat Eddery	88
404	(1)	1-	POMMARD 307 (G) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-9	L Dettori	72
405	(3)	11421-	RIO DUVIDA 205 (C,F,G) (Lady Harrison) D Loder 8-9	R Hughes	93

BETTING: 10-11 Alhaarth, 7-2 Beauchamp King, 5-1 Rio Duvida, 6-1 Polaris Flight, 8-1 Pommard.

1995: PAINTER'S ROW 8-12 J Reid (5-1) P Chapple-Hyam 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALHAARTH completed five-timer, beat Danehill Dancer 2½l in 4-runner group I Dewhurst Stakes here (7f, good to firm). Earlier beat RIO DUVIDA (4lb better off) by ¾l in 3-runner Laurent-Perrier Champagne Stakes at Doncaster (7f, good to soft). BEAUCHAMP KING completed four-timer beat Even Top 1½l in 4-runner group I Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster (1m, good to firm). POLARIS FLIGHT 3l 3rd of 9 to Glory Of Dancer in group I Grand Criterium at San Siro (1m, good) on penultimate start.
POMMARD beat Detachment ¾l in 11-runner maiden at Sandown (7f, good).
RIO DUVIDA beat Mezzogiorno 1l in 30-runner auction race here (7f, good).
Selection: ALHAARTH

4.10 ALEX SCOTT MAIDEN STAKES

C4

(3-Y-O: £5,026: 7f) (8 runners)

501	(4)		GOLD SPATS (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 8-11	K Fallon	–
502	(3)	424-	HAMMERSTEIN 208 (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 8-11	M J Kinane	[illegible]
503	(2)		LIONIZE (M Tabor) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11	J Reid	–
504	(6)	3-	LONELY LEADER 223 (S Suhail) R Hannon 8-11	Pat Eddery	87
505	(7)	2-	MUTADARRA 188 (Hamdan Al Maktoum) R Armstrong 8-11	W Carson	95
506	(5)		PEGRAM (Sultan Al Kabeer) L Cumani 8-11	L Dettori	–
507	(1)		PRIME LIGHT (Mollers Racing) G Wragg 8-11	M Hills	–
508	(8)	0-	ROUSHAN 223 (R Cummings) J O'Shea 8-11	J Quinn	–

BETTING: 9-4 Hammerstein, 3-1 Mutadarra, 4-1 Lionize, 6-1 Gold Spats, 8-1 Lonely Leader, Prime Light, 10-1 Pegram, 12-1 Roushan.

1995: CHARNWOOD FOREST 3-8-11 M J Kinane (4-6 fav) H Cecil 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

HAMMERSTEIN best effort last term 3½l 2nd of 6 to Bijou d'Inde in conditions race at York (7f, good to firm) on penultimate start. LONELY LEADER head and 5l 3rd of 17 to Heron Island in maiden at Doncaster (1m, good to soft). MUTADARRA short-head 2nd of 21 to Projection in maiden here (6f, good to firm).
ROUSHAN 11l 10th of 15 to Welville in maiden at Goodwood (6f, good).
Selection: HAMMERSTEIN

4.45 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND STUNTNEY MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O: £4,230: 5f) (6 runners)

601	(2)		BUT WHY (Four Score Racing) C Murray 8-11	M Fenton	–
602	(3)		DALMENY DANCER (Thurloe Thoroughbreds) B Meehan 8-11	M Tebbutt	–
603	(6)		FLETCHER (Fahd Salman) P Cole 8-11	T Quinn	–
604	(4)		MARAUD (Wyck Hall Stud) R Armstrong 8-11	M Hills	–
605	(1)	0	M T VESSEL 28 (M Thornton & Co) J Jenkins 8-11	S Whitworth	–
606	(5)	2	RUDE AWAKENING 12 (BF) (D Barker) G Lewis 8-11	Pat Eddery	–

BETTING: 5-4 Rude Awakening, 9-4 Maraud, 7-2 Fletcher, 8-1 Dalmeny Dancer, 16-1 But Why, 33-1 M T Vessel.

1995: LUCAYAN PRINCE 8-11 J Weaver (5-6 fav) D Loder 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BUT WHY (foaled Mar 11). Half-brother by Then Again to Elysian Sprite, multiple winner in Austria: dam 7f 100yd handicap winner at three years. DALMENY DANCER (Apr 14, cost 15,500gns). Sister to useful juvenile Myrtle. FLETCHER (Jan 24, 62,000gns) Second foal by Salse, half-brother to high-class performer Bishop Of Cashel. MARAUD (Feb 14) Fourth foal by Midyan, half-brother to minor winning hurdler Forgetful. M T VESSEL 23l last of 7 to Indian Spark in conditions race at Doncaster (5f, good). RUDE AWAKENING ½l 2nd of 8 to Herecomestheknight in maiden at Kempton (5f, good).
Selection: RUDE AWAKENING

5.20 THETFORD CONDITIONS STAKES

(2-Y-O: £5,525: 5f) (4 runners)

1	(3)	1	BLUE MOVIE 23 (D,S) (C Wates) M Bell 9-4	G Faulkner (7)	–
2	(4)	1	HERECOMESTHEKNIGHT 12 (D,G) (D Clee) M Meade 9-4	R Havlin (5)	–
3	(1)	31	MUCHEA 22 (D,S) (Albion Inv) M Channon 9-4	R Hughes	–
4	(2)		EXIT TO RIO (P Leonard) Mrs J Ramsden 8-9	K Fallon	–

BETTING: 7-4 Herecomestheknight, 2-1 Blue Movie, 5-2 Muchea, 8-1 Exit To Rio

1995: DUNGEON MASTER 9-4 R Hughes (11-4) M Channon 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

FORM FOCUS: BLUE MOVIE beat Im Still Here ½l in 4-runner maiden at Newcastle (5f, good to soft). HERECOMESTHEKNIGHT beat Rude Awakening ½l in 8-runner maiden at Kempton (5f, good to firm). MUCHEA beat Red Garter 10l in 5-runner conditions race at Catterick (5f, good to soft). EXIT TO RIO (foaled Mar 2) Second foal by Mining: dam minor winner in North America, including as two-year-old.
Selection: MUCHEA

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Loder	19	81	23.5	Pat Eddery	101	448	22.5
R Charlton	19	90	21.1	L Charnock	3	18	16.7
H Cecil	51	243	21.0	M J Kinane	15	95	15.8
J Gosden	51	339	15.0	Dane O'Neill	5	34	14.7
D Morley	7	49	14.3	L Dettori	68	483	14.1
P Chapple-Hyam	16	117	13.7	R Hughes	6	53	11.3

☐ Jean-Pierre Lopez, the jockey, was handed a two-day ban by the Pontefract stewards yesterday after finishing fourth on Nervous Rex in the Strawberry Hill Median Auction Maiden Stakes. Lopez, who is in his first season in Britain, was judged to have used his whip incorrectly and is suspended from April 26-27.

Storm Trooper can steal the thunder in Feilden Stakes

NEWMARKET
CHANNEL 4

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.35: Luca Cumani has his string in good form and Select Few is fancied to go well here. Despite being tall and weak last season, the Alzao colt ran on strongly to win a 13-runner maiden at Goodwood on his final start and there is every reason to suggest the best is still to come. He should appreciate the step up to ten furlongs and looks set for a good season. Jackson Hill, trained by Roger Charlton, justified strong support to win at Doncaster and will not be inconvenienced by today's faster surface, while Dance On A Cloud and Tabriz are others to consider.

3.05: South Salem looked a progressive horse when a close third to Royal Applause in the Coventry Stakes last year but has not raced since. David Loder's runner has been showing up well at home but may be in need of his reappearance.

The Michael Stoute-trained Bonarelli progressed with every run last season and is one for the short-list. But the pair that make most appeal are Heron Island, one of Peter Chapple-Hyam's most promising three-year-olds, and **Storm Trooper**. Henry Cecil has won this race four times in the past decade and his Diesis colt showed smart form when chasing home Beauchamp King, the subsequent Racing Post Trophy winner, at Ascot.

3.40: The unbeaten **Alhaarth**, odds-on to win the 2,000 Guineas, will be a warm order here and is difficult to oppose. The classic contender has pleased Dick Hern over the winter and it will a big surprise if his colours are lowered. Rio Duvida came the closest of any rival to inflicting a defeat on Alhaarth when getting within half a length in the slowly run Champagne Stakes at Doncaster.

David Loder's runner is 1lb better off today, but his home work suggests he will be more effective over further than a mile. Beauchamp King has strengthened and matured over the winter and may be a bigger threat, although John Dunlop believes the Nishapour colt may prefer a bit more give in the ground.

4.10: Hammerstein stands out, having chased home the promising types, Jarah, Bijou D'Inde and Mons on his three starts. However, I have a suspicion the likely short-priced favourite would prefer a little bit of give in the ground and **Lonely Leader** could offer some each-way value.

Third behind Heron Island and Skillington at Doncaster on his only start last year, this likeable Royal Academy colt is described by his trainer, Richard Hannon, as the best maiden in his yard.

RICHARD EVANS

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THUNDERER
2.20 Potter's Bay. 2.50 Royal Stream. 3.20 Wisdom. 3.50 Puritan. 4.20 Montreve. 4.50 Sparky Gayle.

Carl Evans: 2.50 Royal Stream.

GOING: GOOD — SIS

2.20 WEST SOUND RADIO NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,444: 2m 4f) (10 runners)

1	3105	CHIPPED OUT 10 (S) M Todhunter 6-11-9	M Dwyer
2	25-1	JEFFERIES 38 (G) J Old 7-11-9	G Upton
3	4261	POTTER'S BAY 9 (D,G) D Nicholson 7-11-9	R Johnson (3)
4	-00P	CLASSICAL CHOICE 30 J Barclay 5-11-4	A Thornton
5	0P6	CORSTON JOKER 50 L Lungo 6-11-4	T Reed
6	000	NOOSA SOUND 61 L Lungo 6-11-4	A P McCoy
7	3035	SILK WORD 30 (B) J Edwards 7-11-4	R Dunwoody
8	0-00	THE BEACON RUSTLER 12 F Watson 6-11-4	A Dobbin
9	0202	THURSDAY NIGHT 10 J Fitzgerald 5-11-4	L Wyer
10	05	WOLF TONE 42 Mrs M Reveley 7-11-4	P Niven

6-4 Potter's Bay, 5-2 Jefferies, 5-1 Thursday Night, 10-1 Chipped Out, 12-1 Silk Word, 16-1 Corston Joker, Wolf Tone, 20-1 others.

2.50 ROYAL SCOTS DRAGOON GUARDS CUP HUNTERS CHASE

(Amateurs: £3,513: 3m 3f 110yd) (9)

1	P0-3	BOREEN OWEN 18P (D,G,S) D Harrison 12-12-0	P Craggs
2	3242	CAROUSEL ROCKET 10 (C,BF,F,G,S) M Hammond 13-12-0	C Bonner (3)
3	1-U0	COUNTRY TARROGEN 35 (G,S) T Walford 7-12-0	N Wilson (5)
4	3/1F	DIRECT 20 (S) J Edwards 13-12-0	B Potts (7)
5	51F2	OFF THE BRU 17 (C,F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 11-12-0	M Bradburne (7)
6	-3P2	POLITICAL ISSUE 27 (F,S) T Robson 12-12-0	P Johnson (5)
7	2211	ROYAL JESTER 17 (F,G,S) Mrs J Storey 12-12-0	C Storey (5)
8	-11P	ROYAL STREAM 35 (G,S) Mrs D Johnstone 9-12-0	A Parker (7)
9	-410	SOUTHERN MINSTREL 20 (C,F,G,S) N Chamberlain 13-12-0	Miss C Metcalfe (7)

5-2 Royal Jester, 4-1 Royal Stream, 5-1 Off The Bru, 6-1 Country Tarrogen, 8-1 Southern Minstrel, 10-1 Direct, Political Issue, 12-1 others.

3.20 BOOKER CASH & CARRY CHEFS LARDER FOUR-YEAR-OLD NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE

(£5,248: 2m) (5)

1	4114	ALLTIME DANCER 20 (D,F,G,S) O Sherwood 11-10	J A McCarthy
2	3101	SHINING EDGE 9 (CD,F,G) T Easterby 10-12 (7ex)	L Wyer
3	P411	ELPIDOS 8F (D,F,S) M Hammond 10-11	R Garritty
4	3080	WISDOM 23 (V,D,F) K Morgan 10-0	A S Smith
5	5353	TEEJAY'N'AITCH 10 J Goldie 10-0	G Cahill (5)

10-11 Alltime Dancer, 5-2 Shining Edge, 11-4 Elpidos, 12-1 Wisdom, 66-1 Teejay'n'aitch.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ayr: 3.50 Island Gale. Ripon: 4.00 Samim.

3.50 GEORGE GRAHAM MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE

(£5,150: 3m 1f) (6)

1	1156	SUNLEY BAY 33 (D,G,S) P Nicholls 10-11-10	A P McCoy
2	4151	EMERALD STORM 27 (D,F,G,S) P Monteith 9-11-6	G Cahill (5)
3	211F	PURITAN 37 (B,F,G,S) N Tinkler 7-11-0	G Bradley
4	332B	PIMS GUNNER 21 (D,F,G,S) M Hammond 8-10-8	R Dunwoody
5	3P31	NINFA 31 (B,D,F,G,S) G Richards 8-10-8	A Dobbin
6	/PP	ISLAND GALE 40 (V,D,S) D McCune 11-10-0	A Thornton

7-4 Emerald Storm, 7-2 Puritan, 4-1 Ninfa, 9-2 Sunley Bay, 5-1 Pims Gunner, 50-1 Island Gale.

4.20 W G WALKER NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,696: 2m) (5)

1	211F	LOCHNAGRAIN 54 (C,BF,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 8-12-0	P Niven
2	2021	MONTRAVE 40 (CD,F,G) P Monteith 7-11-4	G Cahill (5)
3	2313	REBEL KING 10 (D,F,G) M Barnes 6-10-8	P Waggott
4	2262	PORT IN A STORM 33 (BF,S) M Hammond 7-10-1	Mr C Bonner (3)
5	32PP	EXPLORE MONDIAL 12 T Dyer 5-10-0	B Storey

6-4 Lochnagrain, 2-1 Montrave, 4-1 Rebel King, 5-1 Port In A Storm, 20-1 Explore Mondial.

4.55 FRIENDLY HOTELS HANDICAP HURDLE

(£5,443: 3m 2f 110yd) (11)

1	-000	ATTADALE 37 (F,G,S) L Lungo 8-11-11	R Dunwoody
2	1325	SPARKY GAYLE 36 (C,F,G,S) C Parker 6-11-9	B Storey
3	2P0P	ISLAND JEWEL 64 (S) J Boclay 8-11-7	M Bosley
4	22P0	YAHMI 20 J Old 6-10-11	G Upton
5	311-	TRONCHETTO 397 (C,F,S) R Allan 7-10-10	G Bradley
6	-P21	NEWTON POINT 15 (F,G,S) D Nicholson 7-10-9	R Johnson (3)
7	2105	ZAMHAREER 21 (F,G) W Storey 5-10-8	R McGrath (7)
8	3434	OTTOWA 37 (G,S) P Nicholls 6-10-7	A P McCoy
9	6012	LINO 97 (BF,F,G,S) L Lungo 5-10-4	F Perratt
10	1441	CATS RUN 23 (D,F,G) J Upson 8-10-0	R Supple
11	-402	TOPFORMER 12 (F) F Watson 9-10-0	A Dobbin

11-4 Newton Point, 9-2 Sparky Gayle, 5-1 Ottowa, 6-1 Zamhareer, 7-1 Attadale, 8-1 Tronchetto, 10-1 Yahmi, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T Easterby, 3 winners from 4 runners, 75.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 40 from 151, 26.5%; R Allan, 3 from 12, 25.0%; G Richards, 47 from 204, 23.0%; J Fitzgerald, 3 from 16, 18.8%; M Hammond, 10 from 67, 14.9%.

JOCKEYS: P Niven, 37 winners from 149 rides, 24.8%; P Cahill, 7 from 35, 20.0%; L Wyer, 8 from 43, 18.6%; A Dobbin, 23 from 129, 17.8%; B Storey, 26 from 179, 14.5%; R Supple, 3 from 21, 14.3%.

☐ Eastern Prophets, trained by Joe Naughton and ridden by Cash Asmussen, finished third in the listed £18,445 Prix Servanne (5½f) at Evry yesterday, four lengths and a short neck behind the impressive 100-30 on winner, Anabaa. Trained by Criquette Head and ridden by her brother, Freddie, Anabaa will now step up to pattern company.

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Ballot winners announced today

Popular nominee Botham miscast in role of selector

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ENGLISH cricket finds itself trapped within the theatrical anticipation of an Oscars ceremony this morning. There will be many, with the good and harmony of the game at heart, who say a silent prayer before the scheduled announcement from Lord's, for if the ludicrous campaign to instal Ian Botham as a Test selector is successful, turbulent times can be guaranteed.

Those who promote Botham's cause are either naive or divisive. The charitable view is that they are as unaware as Botham appears to be of what is involved in the job description. The more sinister interpretation is that it is a calculating attempt to provoke the chairman of selectors, Raymond Illingworth, into a resentful resignation, as well it might.

Botham is not, himself, to be blamed for the inflated and over-glamorised profile of an election for fundamentally menial posts. His wish to be involved with the England team is laudable and should not be discouraged; only his choice of job is misguided. Much the best outcome, today, would be for his bid to end in honourable failure but for his talents — *specifically to inspire* and motivate — to be used more appropriately.

Strip away the frills of this issue, the fatuous opinion polls that predictably champion the populist hero and the well-intentioned blustering of certain county chairmen, and what is left is a traditionally mundane election for two men who will be subordinates on the selection panel, beholden to the instructions of the chairman.

Christopher Cowdrey, another of the eight remaining nominations after the piqued withdrawal of Fred Titmus, has far less chance of election than Botham, but a surer grasp of the job's parameters. "It is a junior role," he said yesterday. "A runner for Ray Illingworth." Realistically, he is right, for the two chosen men will be expected to spend six days a week travelling the country watching and assessing county players. This is not Botham's forte — never has been and never will be.

The necessary attention span would conflict with his restless, instinctive nature even if it did not conflict with the many other demands on his time, while the integrity required of the position hardly sits comfortably with one who has, as prime sources of income, a newspaper column and a contract with Sky television.

The notion that Botham's wondrous playing ability somehow enables him to transform the present team from a seat on the selection panel makes too many assumptions. It tacitly condemns recent selections by Illingworth when, in truth, there have been only occasional choices to dispute, and it assumes for the fourth and fifth selectors an entirely false influence. In practice, the chairman, captain and David Lloyd, the coach, will make most of the decisions: the others are there only to guide and prompt.

Botham ought to have no chance of election but his prospects cannot be dismissed as lightly as those of Geoff Miller, Kim Barnett and Cowdrey. Each of the 18 counties, plus MCC and Minor Counties, have voted for two of the candidates. If one is elected on a landslide, it could be that the second position will be claimed by as few as five or six votes, the kind of number Botham can expect to have won.

David Graveney, who served diligently and progressively on the panel last year, is a worthy favourite. He might by now have usurped Illingworth as chairman but for the belated instruction of his principal employers, the Professional Cricketers' Association, that he must withdraw from the ballot, and it is to be hoped that few counties have held that fiasco against him. He is a good man, a potential future chairman, and as Illingworth has worked with him once he can, and should, do so again.

Illingworth would prefer to have Brian Bolus and John Edrich, like minds and close contemporaries, alongside him. At most, one may be elected, though for a more rounded, informed committee my choice to join Graveney would be Graham Gooch, *about to play out the last of his* 24 seasons and proposed by his county, Essex, with their express agreement to release him for selectorial duties when necessary.

Gooch is a man of detail, concentration and deep love of the county game ... all the things, in fact, that Botham is not.

☐ Lancashire have appointed John Stanworth as coach to succeed David Lloyd. Stanworth, 35, kept wicket for Lancashire in the late 1980s before becoming their second-team captain and last year he became the county's first cricket development officer.

"John Stanworth has agreed to assist with the requirements and demands involved in the running of an ambitious first-class county team both on and off the field," a club statement said. "The Lancashire committee will reconsider the position on Wednesday May 8." Lancashire face Yorkshire in a three-day match at Old Trafford, starting today.

ON MONDAY IN THE TIMES

THE TIMES ITC INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET

The Times cricket game returns this summer in an exciting new format and with a first prize of £10,000. Full details of how to play Interactive Team Cricket will be published in a 16-page guide on Monday. *Make sure of your copy of The Times,* the paper for cricket.

GRAHAM MORRIS

Morris, watchful and determined, on his way to a century at Fenner's

Glamorgan pair cash in

BY PAT GIBSON

FENNERS (first day of three: Cambridge University won toss): Cambridge, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 243 runs behind Glamorgan

CAMBRIDGE University needed all the enthusiasm engendered by their new coach, Derek Randall, to keep them going through the first day of a new Fenner's season as Glamorgan's Hugh Morris and David Hemp both scored centuries of some significance.

Morris, who has given up the captaincy for the second and, presumably, the last time, has obviously not lost his appetite for batting. There was never much doubt that he was going to make his 43rd hundred for the county.

Hemp's sixth first-class century was not so predictable. After being selected for the England A tour the winter before last he was so disappointing last year that, at one stage, he was dropped from the side.

This is an important season for him and he was so determined not to throw his wicket away that at one stage he scored only four in 53 minutes and his hundred took the best part of five hours.

With Morris just as disciplined in an unbroken second-wicket partnership of 247 — only two short of the Glamorgan record set by Morris and Steve James against Oxford University — it was hard work for the Cambridge bowlers but they stuck to their task well.

There was an early wicket for Haste, who had James caught at slip after Glamorgan had been put in on one of the relaid pitches which Cambridge expected to do more than it did. After that it was mainly a matter of containment and the two off spinners, Whittall, the former captain, and Jones, who spent two seasons with Glamorgan, did that better than anyone.

GLAMORGAN: First innings

S P James c Singh b Haste	12
H Morris not out	126
D L Hemp not out	103
Extras (b 4, lb 4, w 1, nb 12)	21
Total (1 wkt dec)	262

A Dale, *M P Maynard, P A Cottey, R D B Croft, S D Thomas, †C P Metson, S L Watkin and S R Barwick did not bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-15.

BOWLING: Haste 15-0-47-1, Moffat 14-6-31-0; Whittall 32-16-61-0, How 10-3-44-0, Jones 21.4-10-36-0, House 7-1-35-0

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: First Innings

R T Ragnauth not out	4
E T Smith not out	13
Extras (lb 2)	2
Total (no wkt)	19

A Singh, *R Q Cake, W J House, R O Jones, †D R H Churton, N J Haste, A R Whittall, G R Moffat and E How to bat.

BOWLING: Watkin 3-1-10-0; Thomas 2-1-5-0; Croft 3-2-1-0, Barwick 2-1-1-0

Umpires: R A White and J W Lloyds.

Durham bring students down to earth

BY JACK BAILEY

THE PARKS (first day of three; Durham won toss): Durham have scored 334 for no wicket against Oxford University

IMMEDIATELY after sniffing victory in a match of sporting declarations against Leicestershire, the university were brought face to face with harsh reality yesterday. Nemesis arrived in the Parks in the shape of Mike Roseberry and Stewart Hutton, Durham's opening pair. By scoring 334 together (Hutton claiming 172, Roseberry 145), they set a Durham record for any wicket. When they passed 222, they left behind the previous record made by Paul Parker and John Glendenen — also for the first wicket, against Oxford — in 1992.

On a bright, sunlit but chilly day, other milestones were left behind. This was Roseberry's first century for Durham; Hutton's highest score. Oxford's limited attack stuck to their task, with enthusiasm if not accuracy, unwavering on a pitch made for batting *once* early-morning dampness had disappeared.

Early on, Roseberry might have been contemplating events from the pavilion had Thomson, tall, accurate and fast-medium, done more than find the edge as the ball moved off the seam. Roseberry also survived several confident shouts for leg-before. He was always less assured than Hutton, whose left-handed elegance took him first past the century mark. This came with fours from four successive balls. He should have been caught at mid-wicket when 58, but there were few other blemishes.

For Durham, a bright start to the season. For Oxford, lessons to learn, not least that there is no substitute for bowling line and length.

DURHAM: First Innings

S Hutton not out	172
*M A Roseberry not out	145
Extras (b 9, lb 7, w 1)	17
Total (no wkt)	334

J E Morris, J A Daley, J I Longley, S D Birbeck, †C W Scott, N Killeen, J Boiling, S J E Brown and M M Betts to bat.

BOWLING: du Preez 15-1-53-0, Thomson 18-3-47-0; Malik 18-1-83-0, Mather 14-1-65-0; Wagh 21-7-41-0; Khan 3-0-19-0, Sutcliffe 4-0-10-0.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: *C M Gupte, I J Sutcliffe, A C Ridley, G A Khan, M A Wagh, H S Malik, M E D Jarrett, †J N Batty, R B Thomson, D P Mather, S P du Preez.

Umpires: N G Cowley and A G T Whitehead.

India do enough in defeat to qualify for final

SOUTH Africa maintained their 100 per cent record in the Sharjah Cup yesterday by beating India by five wickets. They will meet the same opponents in the final tomorrow, India's score of 215 for nine putting them ahead of Pakistan on run rate.

India were unable to exert any real pressure on the South Africans after Gary Kirsten and Jacques Kallis had put on 53 for the first wicket.

Daryll Cullinan, South Africa's top scorer in the tournament, hit 64 from 100 balls while Derek Crookes struck 54 from 61 deliveries, including two sixes.

They added 94 for the fourth wicket from 117 balls before falling in the same over from Raju, whose accurate slow bowling brought him three wickets for 38. But he could not prevent South Africa from winning with 17 balls to spare.

Ajay Jadeja, with 71 from 69 balls, helped India to compensate for the early loss of Sachin Tendulkar.

India looked unlikely to be able to set any sort of target when they slumped to 100 to five after 28.3 of their allotted 50 overs but Jadeja, hitting out strongly, took 17 off the final over, bowled by Crookes.

The man-of-the-match award went to the South African spinner, Paul Adams, who, playing in his first match in the tournament, took three for 30 in his ten overs.

INDIA

V S Rathore c Cronje b Adams	50
S R Tendulkar c Kirsten b de Villiers	17
N S Sidhu lbw b de Villiers	1
S V Manjrekar c Kirsten b Kallis	14
*M Azharuddin st Richardson b Adams	4
A D Jadeja not out	71
†N Mongia c Kirsten b Adams	13
A Kumble run out	16
J Srinath c sub (Matthews) b Pollock	15
V Prasad not out	1
Extras (lb 4, w 7, nb 2)	13
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	215

S L V Raju did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-26, 3-72, 4-89, 5-100, 6-140, 7-177, 8-199.

BOWLING: Pollock 8-0-39-1; de Villiers 10-2-28-2; McMillan 5-0-25-0; Kallis 7-0-34-1. Adams 10-0-30-3, Crookes 10-0-55-0.

SOUTH AFRICA

G Kirsten c Mongia b Kumble	39
J H Kallis run out	22
D J Cullinan c Prasad b Raju	64
*W J Cronje b Raju	1
D Crookes b Raju	54
S M Pollock not out	11
J N Rhodes not out	12
Extras (b 3, lb 2, w 8)	13
Total (5 wkts, 47.1 overs)	216

B M McMillan, †D J Richardson, P S de Villiers and P R Adams did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-53, 2-85, 3-98, 4-192, 5-193.

BOWLING: Srinath 10-0-55-0, Prasad 10-0-43-0; Kumble 10-0-37-1; Raju 10-0-38-3; Jadeja 7-0-37-0; Sidhu 0.1-0-1-0.

Man of the match: P R Adams.

Umpires: B C Cooray (Sri Lanka), M J Kitchen (England).

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

What would you bid on this hand, as East.

♠3 ♥AJ976 ♦AQ5 ♣AQ52

This is the auction (Game All, Rubber bridge):

S	W	N	E
1S	Pass	2S	Dble
3S	Pass	Pass	?

South's bid of Three Spades is barrage.

You would find many duplicate players doubling again on the East hand, typical of the macho attitude that they have to the game — "North-South are pushing me around. I'll show 'em who's boss". In my view, it is idiotic to take another bid — one reasonable construction of the hand is that your partner has very little, and that you will be in trouble at the four level. After all, is there anything to stop your partner having a 4-2-4-3 nought count? At the table, East doubled again. As West, I had an unenviable decision — as I certainly did not want the unpleasant task of playing in Four Diamonds doubled. I decided to pass.

	N	
	♠KQJ ♥54 ♦K10862 ♣864	
♠10642 ♥1032 ♦9743 ♣J3	W E	♠3 ♥AJ976 ♦AQ5 ♣AQ52
	S	
	♠A9875 ♥KQ8 ♦J ♣K1097	

Contract: Three Spades doubled, by South **Lead: Jack of clubs.**

My lead of the jack of clubs was not the best. Declarer won, played a spade to the king and returned a heart to the king. He then continued clubs. East took the queen and ace (on which I discarded a diamond), and continued with ace and another heart. Declarer won and played his winning club. I ruffed, dummy overruffed and declarer continued by cashing a second trump before exiting from dummy with a diamond. Thus, East was able to give me a trump promotion by leading a fourth round of hearts. Had the declarer played a diamond before drawing a second round of trumps, Three Spades would have been made. In a way, I wish it had been — then, my partner would not have looked so smug.

☐ For details of The Times Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BERMOOTHES
a. Sri Lankan drummers
b. Beggars
c. A mythical island

PHLEGETHON
a. A non-flammable substance
b. The Devil
c. A burning river

HANSE
a. A Wagnerian hero
b. A league of merchants
c. Basque handball

CHARIVARI
a. An uproar
b. Jokes
c. Hors d'oeuvres and canapés

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kramnik leads

Vladimir Kramnik, the young Russian grandmaster, has enjoyed a virtually unbroken run of success over the past six months. He has placed at the top in several top-level competitions and he shared the leading spot with Kasparov in the latest World Chess Federation ranking list with a rating of 2,775. His only relative setback was the Euwe Memorial tournament in Amsterdam, in which Kasparov and Topalov pushed Kramnik down the table.

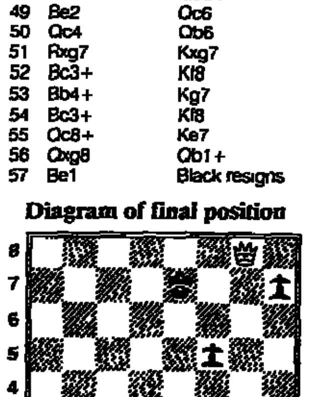
In the combined blitz and blindfold tournament in Monaco, Kramnik has again reasserted himself. After eight rounds, he had conceded just one draw and notched up seven wins including this fine performance.

White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Ljubomir Ljubojevic
Melody Amber
Monaco, April 1996

Sicilian Defence

1	Nf3	c5
2	c4	Nf6
3	Nc3	g6
4	e4	Nc6
5	d4	cxd4
6	Nxd4	d6
7	Be2	Nxd4
8	Qxd4	Bg7
9	Be3	0-0
10	Qd2	Bd7
11	0-0	Bc6
12	f3	Nd7
13	b4	b6
14	Rac1	Bb7
15	Rfd1	Rc8
16	Bg5	f6
17	Bh4	Ne5
18	Nb5	Nc6
19	Qd5+	Kh8
20	Nxa7	Nxb4
21	Qd2	Ra8
22	Qxb4	Rxa7
23	Rc2	Bc6
24	Rb1	Qa8
25	Qd2	g5
26	Bf2	g4
27	Rxb6	gxf3
28	gxf3	Rg8
29	Kf1	Ra3
30	Rb3	Ra5
31	c5	d5
32	Rb6	Ba4
33	Rcb2	dxe4
34	Qc3	Rd8
35	c6	f5
36	Qb4	Bxc6
37	Rxc6	Qxc6
38	Qxa5	Qc1+
39	Be1	Rg8
40	Rd2	exf3
41	Bxf3	Qc4+
42	Re2	Qf4
43	Qd5	e6
44	Rxe6	Qxh2
45	Re2	Qf4
46	Bd2	Qa4
47	Rg2	Qa3
48	Qb3	Qa6+
49	Be2	Qc6
50	Qc4	Qb6
51	Rxg7	Kxg7
52	Bc3+	Kf8
53	Bb4+	Kg7
54	Bc3+	Kf8
55	Qc8+	Ke7
56	Qxg8	Qb1+
57	Be1	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

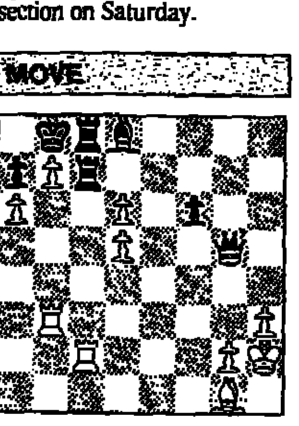


☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Alekhine — Gofmeister, Petrograd, 1917. Although White is temporarily a queen in arrears, he can obviously regain material from his threats against the black rooks. What is the most efficient method of exploiting his threats?



Solution on page 46

SPORTS LETTERS

More to rugby than money

From Mr N. Parry and Mr P. Irvine

Sir, The Rugby Football Union seems to think that it alone should control the organisation and money flows of the new professional game in England. It now appears that it also wishes to have a significant influence on matters in the other home unions.

We wonder whether the RFU would alter its view if the professional organisation covering the first and second division clubs approached the other home unions and suggested that it could enter an England side into a five nations' tournament as a replacement for the RFU?

This might solve a number of problems:

1. the professional game in England would have a significant source of revenue to sustain the game
2. the five nations' tournament would survive without the other home unions being treated as poor relations
3. the professional game in England would be run by professional businessmen, while the RFU committees could run the amateur game to which they appear far more suited.

It would also show the RFU that, although the top echelon of the game has changed, the vast majority has not. This majority still believes rugby union is more than a money-making machine for the few. It is where friendship, sportsmanship and fair play continue to count for much.

Yours faithfully,
N. PARRY, P. IRVINE,
4 Priory Court, EC4.

Greater success

From Mr P. T. Donald

Sir, Contrary to the table regarding major golf championship winners (April 16), Harry Vardon won six Opens which, with his US Open victory, gives him a total of seven: and it was not Sarazen but Palmer who also won a US Amateur.

Yours etc.,
PHILIP DONALD,
Graham, Lagan Mills,
Dromore, Co Down.

Manchester United, the public's finest

From Mr Hammond Smith

Sir, I must take issue with Simon Barnes's comments on Newcastle United, "the people's champions, the choice of neutrals everywhere", and on Kevin Keegan, "the people's manager" (Midweek View, April 10).

It will be a sad day for British football when chequebook football of the sort practised by Blackburn and Newcastle succeeds. How the common man can relate to a team that is little more than the plaything of a millionaire beats me.

Much better to sing the praises of teams such as Manchester United who develop their own young players, and when they spend their money (in fact, very little recently — they are in a transfer surplus), it is money that has been generated by their own success on the field rather than pumped in by rich men.

Yours etc.,
HAMMOND SMITH,
32 West Avenue,
Leicester.

From the Reverend R. P. Stacy Waddy

Sir, Consider this extract from P. G. Wodehouse's *Psmith in the City*, published in 1910, which I must have read for the first time as a boy at Rugby in 1919. The exchanges are between Psmith, his fellow bank clerk, Bannister, and their departmental head, Mr Rossiter.

Psmith held up his hand.

'The fault was mine ... I engaged [Bannister] in conversation on the subject of the Football League, and I was trying to correct his view that Newcastle United were the best team playing, when you arrived.' ...

'My own view,' said Psmith, 'was that Manchester United were by far the finest team before the public.'

'Get on with your work, Smith.'

Mr Rossiter stumped off to his desk, where he sat as one in thought.

'Smith,' he said at the end of five minutes. Psmith slid from his stool, and made his way deferentially towards him.

'Bannister's a fool,' snapped Mr Rossiter.

'So I thought,' said Psmith.

'A perfect fool. He always was.'

Psmith shook his head sorrowfully, as who should say, 'Exit Bannister.'

'There is no team playing today to touch Manchester United.'

The Master is uncannily right on all sporting matters and I am glad to share his wisdom with your readers — particularly those working in banks who want to "Get On"!

Yours sincerely,
PAT STACY WADDY,
White House Court,
Westwell,
Ashford,
Kent.

Striking similarity

From Mr L. M. Stanley

Sir, Manchester United's decision to abandon their low-visibility grey strip (report, April 16) is not without foundation.

After lengthy studies, the RAF concluded that grey-coloured fighter aircraft gave their pilots the best chances of avoiding visible detection. I admit that a Tornado F3 Striker moves a little faster than Ryan Giggs.

Yours etc.,
L. M. STANLEY,
52 Essex Gardens,
Hornchurch,
Essex.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

BUILDING SOCIETIES ACT 1986

CONFIRMATION HEARING

NATIONAL & PROVINCIAL BUILDING SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given that National & Provincial Building Society has applied to the Building Societies Commission to confirm, under section 98 of the Act, the transfer of its business to Abbey National plc and the terms of the transfer.

Any interested party has the right to make written or oral representations, or both, to the Commission with respect to this application.

Written representations must reach the Commission by 12 noon on 13 May 1996.

Written notice of intention to make oral representations must also reach the Commission by 12 noon on 13 May 1996.

The Commission intends to hear oral representations on 3 June 1996 and will advise intending participants of the time and place.

The Act provides that the Commission must confirm a transfer unless it considers that:

(a) some information material to the members' decision about the transfer was not made available to all the members eligible to vote; or

(b) the vote on any resolution approving the transfer does not represent the views of the members eligible to vote; or

(c) there is a substantial risk that the successor company will not be authorised under the Banking Act 1987; or

(d) some relevant requirement of the Act or the rules of the Society was not fulfilled.

The address of the Building Societies Commission is 15 Great Marlborough Street, London W1V 2LL.

Bayern take final step as Spanish fall flat

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

JOHAN CRUYFF was putting a brave face on it, but the sense of disappointment spread far beyond the Nou Camp stadium yesterday as Barcelona, giant football club and city in turn, came to terms with defeat in the Uefa Cup on Tuesday night. In a season in which much was expected, if not demanded, Europe represented Barcelona's best and probably last hope of success, but a 2-1 defeat by Bayern Munich in front of 110,000 passionate and partisan supporters ranks as one of the most frustrating nights of Cruyff's reign.

Worse, Bayern were worthy winners and, had their finishing reached their normal high standards, would have done so more comfortably. The 4-3 aggregate score, after the 2-2 draw in the Olympic stadium in Munich a fortnight earlier, flattered the losers.

Mehmet Scholl was the match-winner, taunting Barcelona down both flanks. He set up the opening goal for Babbel in the fortieth minute, with a fierce drive that Busquets, the goalkeeper, could only push into the path of the defender, and also gave Klinsmann two opportunities to extend his tally of 14 goals in this season's competition after the interval. Unusually, Klinsmann squandered them. It was only when Witeczek, with a deflected shot, extended the lead with seven minutes left that Bayern could feel safe.

De la Peña, with a free kick moments before the end, provided Barcelona's only consolation, but even that was a double-edged sword. His absence from the starting line-up and subsequent impact as a 75th-minute substitute will do nothing to ease the pressure on Cruyff, the Barcelona coach. The brilliant 19-year-old midfield player, a favourite at the Nou Camp, is reportedly unhappy at the club and is strongly linked with Real Madrid. Beaten by Atlético Madrid in the Spanish Cup final last week and with the league title seemingly destined for Atlético as well, losing de la Peña to their deadliest rivals would be another devastating blow to Barcelona's pride.

"We have to be happy," Cruyff said of the defeat. "You have to play well to be still playing the competitions at the end of the season." His optimism did not sound very convincing.

Tuesday's celebrations took place elsewhere, in Munich, enjoying a Klinsmann-inspired revival guaranteed to frustrate any Tottenham Hotspur supporter, in Bordeaux, where the French club finished off the challenge of Slavia Prague, and in the offices of Uefa itself in Switzerland, where Bordeaux's win offered unexpected justification for the maligned InterToto Cup. Bordeaux only qualified for the Uefa Cup via the InterToto tournament, yet, despite mediocre league form, sensationally dispatched AC Milan in the quarter-finals before bouncing out the Czechs.

"I know a lot of coaches were against entering the InterToto Cup because they thought it would cut short players' holidays and damage preparations," Alain Afflelou, the Bordeaux club president said yesterday, "but I saw it as a reprieve for a team which had narrowly missed out on a Uefa Cup place. It did not affect us in pre-season and now I see lots of coaches from teams in mid-table are starting to talk about qualifying for the InterToto Cup."

Inspired again by their outstanding trio of Zidane and Lizarazu in midfield and Dugarry up front, Bordeaux had little trouble seeing off Slavia. Tholot's 46th-minute effort gave them a 1-0 win on the night and a 2-0 victory on aggregate in what was their eighteenth match of the season in Europe, a record in itself. Against France's first Uefa Cup finalist since 1978, Bayern, the strongest of favourites for the two-leg final, should beware.

Ferguson's hopes for European finals ended by injury

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

DUNCAN FERGUSON will not play in the European football championship finals for Scotland this summer. The Everton forward was examined yesterday by a specialist who concluded that he now needs complete rest to cure the persistent groin strain that has bedevilled him. Ferguson will not appear in either of his club's two remaining league games.

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, was at Goodison on Tuesday to see Ferguson's last game of the season, a 1-1 draw with Liverpool. Yesterday, he received the news from Joe Royle, the Everton manager, of the severity of Ferguson's condition. "He was given two injections in order to play," reported Brown, "but once they wore off he was barely able to walk."

Ferguson's career has in the past been disrupted by the consequences of his indiscipline and he spent six weeks in jail last year after being found guilty of assault during a match for Rangers against Raith Rovers in 1994. However, it may be that the vulnerability of his body, rather than any volatility of character, will, in the long term, create the greater doubts over his prospects.

With Everton, he has already had two hernia operations and the specialist concluded that further surgery would serve no purpose. Ferguson, 24, has for one reason or another, been unavailable to play for Scotland since he participated in the 1-0 defeat by Greece in December 1994.

Brown is sympathetic towards the player, but does remain puzzled that so much importance is placed by others on a forward who has still to score for his country after five appearances. Nonetheless, many observers did see Ferguson as capable of adding an intensity to the Scotland attack that it lacks at present.

As it is, Brown is yet to forge a partnership of forwards for the European championship. He may, in the circumstances, have been particularly pleased to note Scott Booth's goal for Aberdeen against Partick Thistle on Tuesday. Like Ferguson, a groin injury has also deprived him of much of the season.

The principal comfort for the Scotland manager lies in the fact that Ferguson is no longer a tantalising presence on the edge of his thoughts. For Brown, whose side play A and B internationals in Denmark next week, it will now be much easier to make firm plans.

There was, however, some good news for Brown, regarding the international future of Mark Crossley, the Nottingham Forest goalkeeper. Crossley, Barnsley born, was told earlier this week that his hopes of playing for Scotland had been dashed because of his appearances for the England Under-21 side. The Football Association yesterday disagreed, a spokesman saying that officials see no reason why Crossley should not qualify to play for the Scots by virtue of having a Scottish grandmother.

Crossley played for England Under-21 in the 1990 Toulon tournament and Brown believed that, as a Uefa competition, the appearance made him ineligible to make the switch.

The FA says that the Toulon tournament was a friendly competition and therefore insists that there is nothing to stop Crossley from playing for Scotland in the future.

"As far as I'm concerned I'm eligible. The FA say I'm eligible and Craig Brown wants me to play, so I can't understand what is going on at the moment," Crossley said.

"I wouldn't have gone to all the trouble of sending them birth certificates if I didn't think there was a chance of playing for Scotland."

Now Crossley is hoping that he may yet get a call from Brown for the international match against Denmark next week.

Ferguson's footballing career has been bedevilled by injury and indiscipline

Whitaker hoping to develop Olympic experience

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN ATLANTA

GREAT Britain will continue their preparations for the Olympic hockey tournament with a trip to Ipoh, Malaysia, to take part in the Sultan Azlan Shah competition from May 4 to 12.

The event will bring them into conflict with Australia, India, Pakistan, Holland and the host nation. Germany, the Olympic champions, had been scheduled to play but recently withdrew.

Holland, the replacements for Germany, will, like Pakistan and India, send their under-21 team, probably as a preparatory measure for the junior World Cup to be staged in Milton Keynes next year.

The tournament is important to Britain in that it offers a chance to evaluate Australia and Malaysia, both of whom are in their pool for the Olympics.

Frank Murray, the Australia coach, who has been attending the six nations tournament here in Atlanta this week, said that he will be taking a strong side to Ipoh and that it would include a few rising young players. "I hope we shall be able to play some good hockey," he said.

David Whitaker, the Britain coach, believes that the tournament in Ipoh will help his players to acclimatise to the humidity and high temperatures they will experience when they return to Atlanta in July.

After the Malaysia trip, Britain will face two four-nation tournaments, the first in Milton Keynes from June 13 to 16, the second in Amsterdam from June 19 to 23. The opposition in both events will be Germany, Holland and Pakistan. This means that by the end of June, Britain will have played every team in their Olympic pool, except South Africa.

The South Africans, coached by Gavin Featherstone, a former England and Great Britain international, are due to play two tournaments in Australia in May. They will be opposed by Australia, India and New Zealand.

On Tuesday night, Pakistan beat South Korea 3-0 to record their fourth successive victory in the six nations event here. Tahir Zaman, the Pakistan captain, scored the first and third goals. His first came after 12 minutes from the penalty spot and the second a minute before the interval. Sharafat Mehmood scored the other goal.

Sang-nyul Kim, the South Korea manager, said: "Pakistan were more skilful today, controlled the midfield and played more as a team than in our last matches with them. They were also quicker, but I think my players have had too much hockey and are tired."

Britons fail to make flying start in time for World Cup

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN GENEVA

THE two British riders competing in the Volvo showjumping World Cup here — John Whitaker and Nick Skelton — made an inauspicious start to the five-day final yesterday. Whitaker missed his flight from Heathrow and did not arrive in time to jump Grannusch in the opening warm-up class.

Skelton, who was yesterday invited by the World Cup committee to make the draw for the first leg of the final, could not find the room in the Palexpo hall where the meeting was taking place and eventually gave up looking.

The two British riders are drawn 24th and 31st which, providing their resolve is sharper than it was yesterday, should be an advantage. The first leg, judged on speed with seconds added for a knockdown, favours the later riders who learn from the mistakes of the earlier ones.

Whitaker's wife, Claire, who did catch the aeroplane, indicated that he still intends to ride Grannusch in the first leg tonight and keep his top horse, Welham, aged 16, for the bigger second and third legs tomorrow and Sunday.

Skelton, who is attempting a second successive World Cup win on Dollar Girl, had a reassuring outing in the warm-up class. He put the 16-year-old mare neatly over the first seven fences and then, confident that she was "tuned up", retired her.

"It's the best ground we've had all year," Skelton said. With Dollar Girl fitter than she has ever been, Skelton's morale, on the eve of the final, is high. His only grievance was a description of himself in the official programme as a "*caractère difficile*". He was keen to have words with the author.

Most of the riders in the class yesterday, which was won by Philippe Rozier, of France, on Flyer Baiko, used it as a schooling round. One of the most impressive of these came from Franke Sloothaak, of Germany, the world champion, on Weihaiwej, whose flawless clear round confirmed them as one of the favourites.

Sloothaak's compatriot Ludger Beerbaum, the Olympic champion and winner of the 1993 World Cup, jumped the first few fences on Gaylord and then retired him. He said later that Gaylord — the horse on which he beat Skelton and Dollar Girl by a hundredth of a second in London in December — would be his ride for the first two legs. In the third round he will ride Rush On, the winner in Paris last month.

RESULTS: Prix d'Ouverture: 1, Flyer Baiko (P Rozier, Fr) 0 faults in 47 8sec; 2, Pikadero (H Hansen, US) 4 in 41 7; 3, Ennco (L Nieberg, Ger) 43 in 79.1

Paris aim to break cycle of defeat

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

PARIS Saint-Germain know all about déjà vu. It has become something of a recurring nightmare. Each year, they reach the semi-final of a European competition — European Cup, Uefa Cup, Cup Winners' Cup, doesn't matter — and, each year, they lose. The glamour final is contested by somebody else and the trophy they crave as proof of their place among the Continent's elite is paraded elsewhere. Tomorrow, Saint-Germain will try, once again, to break the cycle.

This year, Deportivo La Coruña stand between Paris and European glory, which, this year, means the Cup Winners' Cup. Although Youri Djorkaeff's spectacular goal in the first leg gives the French a 1-0 lead on aggregate and, surely, their best chance yet of progressing, Parisian mutterings that the Spaniards have nothing to lose when they take the field at the Parc des Princes are understandable.

In 1993, for instance, Juventus beat them in the last four of the Uefa Cup on the way to winning the trophy. The following year, Saint-Germain were widely expected to dispose of Arsenal in the semi-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup, but they lost and it was Arsenal who went on to beat Parma in the final. When AC Milan almost repeated the trick in the European Cup last season — they won the semi-final but lost in the final — defeat was becoming all too familiar.

This year, Paris promise, will be different. "Today, we are sufficently experienced to break the barrier," Bernard Lama, the goalkeeper in all three semi-final losses, said. "We know we can get over it because we have a foundation of players for four years now that can pull us to the heights."

They have also enjoyed some timely luck with injuries this week, with Rai, the Brazil midfield player, Loko, the striker, and Bravo, another midfield man, all doubtful at one time, pronounced fit.

Rai: declared fit

Deportivo, coached by John Toshack, must be envious. They will be without at least four key players — the Brazil international, Mauro Silva, Fran, Martinez and Djukic — and much will depend on the form of Bebeto, their brilliant, if delicate, Brazilian striker.

In Rotterdam, Feyenoord and Rapid Vienna, level at 1-1 in their semi-final after the first leg, are indulging in mind games before the main event. Arie Haan, the Feyenoord coach, was being cagey yesterday. "I enjoy the pyschological game," he said. "I want to keep everyone guessing as to what we'll do."

To which Ernst Dukopil, the Rapid coach, responded: "Feyenoord have to score to go through to the final. They have little choice in choosing their tactics after the first-leg result. They have to go on the attack." A good guess or a bad guess? Only time will tell.

European play-offs beckon for England

BY SARAH FORDE

ENGLAND'S women footballers play Croatia in a European championship qualifying match today just six days before Terry Venables's team repeats the exercise at Wembley. While the men should provide a strict examination of England's Euro '96 credentials, the Croatian women's team in Osijek is unlikely to be the force that bars England's progress to the play-offs for the 1997 European finals.

Croatia have lost all three of their group matches and conceded 14 goals, including five against England in their meeting at The Valley in November. Since that game, England have been beaten by Italy, who now sit securely in the one automatic qualification spot at the top of the table, and the best England can hope for is a place in the play-offs which a win against Croatia would ensure.

An enormous boost for England is the return of Karen Burke, the midfield player, who missed the game in Italy, but Ted Copeland, the manager, has had to make a number of changes.

Karen Farley, his first-choice front player, andBecky Easton are unfit after suffering injuries and Karen Walker, whose form has dipped below her usually high standards, has been dropped. In come Tara Proctor, Mary Phillips and Vicky Exley with only one full international appearance between them.

ENGLAND (probable): P Cope, D Bampton, M Marley, K Davis, T Mapes, G Coultard, K Burke, S Williams, K Smith, H Powell, T Proctor

British dominance draws to a close

FROM NORMAN DE MESQUITA IN EINDHOVEN

THE Jekyll and Hyde character of the Great Britain ice hockey team was never more in evidence than during their 3-3 draw with Japan on Tuesday in pool B of the world championship here.

In the first period it was all Britain, with Japan outclassed, and a 3-0 lead was the least the British team deserved.

However, in the second period old failings resurfaced as Japan scored three times without reply. The third period saw both aspects of the British game and, in the end, they were a shade unfortunate not to win. A more aware referee might have seen Mike Bishop's shot hit the back of the goal before coming out, but it was not allowed. The official also disallowed a late Steve Moria goal, despite the rule which makes it clear that a goal can be scored off a forward's skate as long as it is an unintentional deflection.

These incidents brought to the fore once again the poor quality of refereeing at ice hockey world championships; the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) seems to believe that all countries should be represented, however inexperienced their officials might be.

The Swiss referee on Tuesday is not the worst here. A Dutch official awarded the wrong penalty during an earlier game and the referees' supervisor came down from his seat to have the decision changed. Such shortcomings make life difficult for players and frustrating for supporters. The IIHF must realise that standards of officiating are more important than keeping its member countries happy.

☐ Nottingham Panthers have agreed to join the new Superleague, completing a line-up of eight clubs for the inaugural competition next season. They will join Cardiff Devils, Manchester Storm, Bracknell Bees, Sheffield Steelers, Basingstoke Bison, Newcastle Wasps and a team from Ayr.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

HERNING, Denmark: European championships (selected results): Men's singles: First round: J Olsson (Swe) bt G Lewis (Wales) 15-3, 15-3; C Haughton (Eng) bt C Robertson (Scot) 15-6, 15-6; P Knowles (Eng) bt M Aydogmus (Tur) 15-0, 15-3; V Itzkov (Russ) bt D O'Halloran (Ire) 15-4, 15-8; R Vaughan (Wales) bt F Posteuca (Rom) 15-10, 15-5; O Pongratz (Ger) bt B Topping (Ire) 15-0, 15-2. Women's singles: First round: T Groves (Eng) bt C O'Sullivan (Ire) 11-1, 11-4; J Muggeridge (Eng) bt K Rudolf (Pol) 11-2, 11-2; G Martin (Scot) bt N Groves-Burke (Wales) 11-4, 11-3; S McGinn (Ire) bt K Viu (Est) 11-8, 11-3; A Humby (Eng) bt D Smilianova (Bul) 11-1, 11-0.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Detroit 13 Toronto 8; Milwaukee 6 New York 3, Baltimore 6 Boston 1; Kansas City 8 Chicago 5, Cleveland 7 Minnesota 2; Texas 5 Oakland 3; Seattle 5 California 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Chicago 6 Cincinnati 3; Montreal 7 Philadelphia 6; Atlanta 5 Florida 2; Houston 9 New York 6; Pittsburgh 13 St Louis 3; San Diego 10 Colorado 8; San Francisco 5 Los Angeles 3

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Cleveland 80 Atlanta 77, Orlando 113 Washington 95; LA Lakers 113 Dallas 95, Chicago 86 Milwaukee 80; Phoenix 111 Houston 100, Utah 106 LA Clippers 85; San Antonio 95 Vancouver 86.

BOWLS

MELTON MOWBRAY: English men's indoor championship: Pairs: First round: Oyster (A Godsell, C James) bt Hartlepool (I Jackson, P Stephenson) 35-9; Nottingham (D Robinson, B Morley) bt Westlecot (G Hatherall, S Warren) 24-12; UCB Cellophane (M Dewes, D Fowkes) bt Dunholme (J Sleight, W Jackson) 25-17; Chipping Norton (S Drinkwater, L Gillett) bt Barking (S Reading, C Bryan) 22-17; Newcastle (S Harvey, M London) bt Cambridge Park (G Little, S Tuohy) 24-11; Wymondham Del (J Ottaway, R Haydon) bt Erdington Court (C Smith, B Pigott) 29-15, Victory (D Bishop, C Brewer) bt Ipswich (A Sale, R Cutts) 26-13, Stevenage (S Apps, T Webb) bt Donyatt (P Bromfield, J Ridout) 21-15

FOOTBALL

Tuesday's late results

UEFA CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Barcelona 1 Bayern Munich 2 (Bayern win 4-3 on agg), Bordeaux 1 Slavia Prague 0 (Bordeaux win 2-0 on agg).

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Everton 1 Liverpool 1.

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE: First division: Port Vale 1 Grimsby 0; Sunderland 3 Birmingham 0; Watford 4 Reading 2. Second division: Chesterfield 1 Walsall 1, Oxford 1 Notts County 1, Wycombe 1 Rotherham 1. Third division: Cambridge 2 Preston 1, Colchester 1 Gillingham 1, Hereford 3 Plymouth 0; Mansfield 2 Rochdale 2; Scunthorpe 1 Bury 2.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Partick 1 Aberdeen 1.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cheltenham 4 Stafford 0; Crawley Town 1 Merthyr 0; Gravesend and Northfleet 4 Newport AFC 0; Ilkeston Town 1 Burton 0, Rushden and Diamonds 2 Gresley Rovers 1; Sudbury Town 3 VS Rugby 2. Southern division: Ashford Town 1 Weymouth 0; Bashley 2 Havant Town 3, Erith and Belvedere 2 Yate Town 1, Trowbridge Town 0 Waterlooville 2; Weston-super-Mare 3; Clevedon Town 2; Witney Town 0 Sittingbourne 2. Midland division: Bury Town 1 Dudley Town 3; Evesham United 1 Redditch United 1, Grantham Town 2 Buckingham Town 1, Stourbridge 2 Bilston Town 1

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Boreham Wood 2 Chertsey Town 0; Bromley 1 St Albans 0, Enfield 3 Purfleet 0, Hayes 0 Sutton Utd 0; Hitchin 0 Yeading 3, Kingstonian 2 Bishop's Stortford : Yeovil 3 Aylesbury 2 First division: Basingstoke Town 2 Billericay Town 1; Berkhamsted Town 2 Maidenhead Utd 2; Heybridge Swifts 2 Oxford City 2; Uxbridge 2 Ruislip Manor 1; Wembley 1 Marlow 2; Whyteleafe 0 Staines Town 2. Second division: Banstead Ath 5 Chalfont St Peter 1, Bracknell Town 1 Dorking 0. Edgware Town 0 Hemel Hempstead 0, Hampton 1 Hungerford Town 0, Metropolitan Police 2 Tilbury 0. Third division: Clapton 0 Aveley 3, Hertford Town 1 Wealdstone 2; Southall 0 Harlow Town 2, Windsor and Eton 2 Kingsbury Town 1.

FA YOUTH CUP: Semi-finals, second leg: Wimbledon 2 West Ham 3 (att: 2,010; agg. 3-5. West Ham play Liverpool in final)

GERMAN LEAGUE: Borussia Mönchengladbach 1 Kaiserslautern 1.

GOLF

WEST HILL: Father and Son foursomes tournament: Second round: M and G Taggart (Wildernesse) w/o D and T Lord (Northants) scr; T and E Clutton (Wrexham, West Lothian) bt R and T Fraser (West Hill) 4 and 3; H and T Mote (West Sussex) bt I and S Henderson (Colchester) 3 and 2, Dr R and M Wilkner (Hadley Wood) bt S and C Bowyer (Moortown) 1 hole, R and C Coombes (Walton Heath) bt D and G Sirk (Royal North Down, Saunton) 4 and 3, M and M Hickey (West Hill) bt D and P Sykes (East Devon, Thornbury) 2 and 1, J and T Hubbard (Burhill) bt S and J Tedrake (Worplesdon) 3 and 1, S and M Sreding (Rye, Worplesdon) bt P and R Price (Stoneham) 1 hole, G and G Bradbury (Burhill) bt D and A Staflan (West Hill) 7 and 6; R and K Boxall (Blackmoor) bt R and F Hope (Chiberta) 2 and 1, G and M James (Walton Heath) bt D and M Burridge (Ealing) 3 and 2, A and S Smith (Ashford Manor) bt Dr J and R Williams (Chislehurst) 19th hole, R and N Stokes (Hayling) bt A and N Cronk (Walton Heath) 3 and 2; P and S Smith (Surbiton) bt R and O Smith (Surbiton) 2 and 1, M and M Ferguson-Jones (Royal Mid Surrey) bt T and J Chappell (Yeovil, Royal Mid Surrey) 1 hole, M and P Lawson (Stoneham) bt P and R Bathurst (Hankley Common) 3 and 2; D and J Dixon (Nevill, Royal Ashdown) bt R and S Slovold (West Surrey) 3 and 2, R and A Lawson (Sunningdale) bt P and S Osborn (Lindrick, Royal West Norfolk) 2 and 1, G and P Walker (Woking) bt S and N Oliver (West Byfleet) 5 and 4, J and R Gill (Worplesdon) bt D and J Sinker (Stinchcombe Hill) 3 and 2; R and P Long (Windmill Hill, Wavendon) bt G and M Bell-Rawden (Haywards Heath, West Hill) 4 and 3, J and M Connelly (Woking) bt A and J Stapleton (Gerrards Cross) 1 hole, D and H Holland (Sunningdale) bt C and A Taylor (Luffenham Heath, Burghley) 4 and 3, J and N Gilbert (Burhill) bt A and R Evans (Dulwich, Royal Cinque Ports) 6 and 5, W and A Kidd (Wentworth, Bristol) bt A and J Aylwin (Sunningdale) 1 hole, J and R Piggott (Littlehampton, Perivale) bt S and R Wamn (Pinner Hill) 1 hole, R and J Kretting (Rye, Denham) bt E and V Bailes (Stoke Poges, Royal Ascot) 3 and 2, B and K Sharp (Royal Eastbourne, Collingtree Pk) bt D and A Greenhalgh (Royal Mid Surrey) 4 and 3, G and A Gillespie (Worplesdon) bt W and C Pearce (Royal North Devon, West Hill) 3 and 2; V and G Davis (Wyke Green) bt A and R Oakes (Hunstanton) 2 holes, P and D Story (Mullion, Liphook) bt J and J Green (RAC, Broome Manor) 3 and 2, A and J Sparrow (Lytham Green Dove) bt D and D Dunnett (Olton) 3 and 2

ICE HOCKEY

EINDHOVEN, Holland: World championships: Pool B: Latvia 4 Poland 2, Great Britain 3 Japan 3

REAL TENNIS

QUEEN'S CLUB: British Land national under-24 championship: Final: R Gunn bt D Jones 6-1, 6-5, 6-3. Under-21 championship: Final: J Wilcocks bt A Blosse 6-1, 4-6, 6-3

RUGBY UNION

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: First division: Llanelli 39 Aberavon 0. Second division: Tenby United 5 Dunvant 36

CLUB MATCH: Crumlin 10 Cross Keys 48

WILLIS CORROON SHIELD: Army 31 RAF 23

TENNIS

PAGET, Bermuda: Men's tournament: First round: M Washington (US) bt L Jensen (US) 6-3, 6-4, J Apell (Swe) bt A Rechel (US) 2-6, 7-5, 6-4, D Dier (Ger) bt M Joyce (US) 6-4, 7-6; N Lapentti (Ecu) bt K Novacek (Cz) 7-5, 3-6, 6-4, M Filippini (Uru) bt G Ellis (Arg) 6-2, 3-6, 6-2, A Ilie (Aus) bt J Stoltenberg (Aus) 6-3, 6-2, B Shelton (US) bt O Gross (Ger) 6-1, 6-2, J Frana (Arg) bt M Charpentier (Arg) 6-3, 6-2

TOKYO: Japan Open (Japan unless stated) Men: First round: Women: T Suzuki bt N Kulti (Swe) 6-3, 6-1; S Matsuoka bt C Caratti (It) 6-1, 7-6, R Reneberg (US) bt B Black (Zim) 6-3, 6-0; D Prinosil (Ger) bt S Stolle (Aus) 6-1, 6-4. First round: A Sugiyama bt Tang Min (HK) 6-1, 6-4, K Date bt R Hiraki 6-3, 6-1

SPORT IN BRIEF

Seedings rule puts medal hopes at risk

SIMON ARCHER and Julie Bradbury, of England, who are seeded to win the gold medal in the European badminton championships at Herning, Denmark, may miss out on any medal at all (Richard Eaton writes).

Archer and Bradbury, the world grand prix runners-up, began with a 15-3, 15-6 win yesterday over Manuel Dubrulle and Virginie Delvingt, of France, but in the quarter-finals they may meet the most dangerous partnership, Par-Gunnar Jonsson and Astrid Crabo, of Sweden. The Swedes are unseeded, not having previously played together in tournaments in the past year.

Chapman shows way

GOLF: The regular mid-April slot for the Peter McEvoy Trophy invariably dictates that the prevailing conditions would test the resolve of the most experienced of players on the PGA European Tour. For the under-18s, the chilled showers of Copt Heath made even attempting to break par the most daunting of challenges. Steven Chapman, of Cornwall, however, managed it and his second-round 69, two under par, left him with a four-shot halfway lead. Chapman's nearest challenger was Paul Barnard, of Ipswich, on 145.

Wigan transfer row

RUGBY LEAGUE: Wigan are demanding that Perth Western Reds do not play Barrie-Jon Mather again, until his transfer dispute is settled (Christopher Irvine writes). Mather appeared in an Australian Premiership game, when Wigan had only consented to him training with Perth. Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman, said: "They had 95 per cent agreed a payment with us and we were expecting a £50,000 initial fee. But with the upheaval in Australia that never arrived. We are far from happy with the situation."

Victory for Armstrong

CYCLING: Lance Armstrong, the 1993 world champion, became the first American to win the 200.5km Fleche Wallonne classic in Belgium yesterday. Didier Rous, of France, finished second and Maurizio Fondriest, the former world champion from Italy, was third. Armstrong, who will attempt to complete the Ardennes double this weekend in the Liège-Bastogne-Liège classic, broke away with Rous 10km from the finish and drew away from the Frenchman in the final metres of the Huy climb to claim a famous victory.

Marathon goody-bag proves sweet reward

There is something mysteriously childlike about a marathon runner. Watching the thousands queueing to register for the Flora London Marathon, which takes place on Sunday, you realise that they have all the enthusiasm of children turning up for a birthday party. What excites them is not the thought of running 26 miles. That is terrifying. Nor is it the prospect of getting the race over with. That leaves them in pain for days.

What makes them so enthusiastic is a simple secret known to everyone who has ever organised a children's party — waiting for them is a bag full of free goodies. If they are lucky, there is another bag of goodies when they go home.

The goody-bag for runners is something that appeared with the mass participation folk festivals that are now the big-city marathons. The men who got them under way in the Seventies and Eighties were living embodiments of childlike enthusiasm — men such as Fred Lebow in New York and Chris Brasher in London. Such men, it seems, grow old but, wonderfully, never grow up.

There are runners, many of them in London right now, who globe-trot — running marathons in New York, Paris, London, Berlin or Boston — caring not which are the fastest courses, but which have the best-stuffed goody-bags. So what is in these mysterious bags that send full-grown and finely-trained men and women on their way with such childlike grins? What delights have Flora and the team behind the London Marathon come up with?

'Like children arriving for a birthday party'

Along with their race numbers, the thousands who check in carry away with them a bag that gives remarkable insight into the strange and obsessive world of the marathon runner. The most essential item, apparently, is the tub of Vaseline. Marathon runners are meant to be well-oiled machines. The preferred lubricant is Vaseline — and it goes on all moving parts: between the toes, under the arms — and to places only marathon runners care about.

BRYANT'S EYE

There are go-faster nasal strips. These are strange plasters that flare the nostrils and terrify the opposition. They will be hot fashion on Sunday. There is the invitation to a "Carbo Carnival", for, despite their skinny appearance, marathon runners like to eat their own bodyweight in carbohydrates before they race.

There is information on heart monitors, disturbing if you are undertrained, and gifts aplenty — sports rubs, magazines, safety pins, first-day Post Office covers, mineral water and some Batchelors pasta and sauce. Along with all these essentials come pages of last-minute instructions — the most important of which is advice not to use the gardens of people around Blackheath as loos.

The goody-bag at the finish is no less fascinating. Here for the enthusiastic child of the marathon is the customised T-shirt — only available if you have covered the whole 26 miles, and, according to Dave Bedford, the race's head of marketing, "the most sought-after souvenir".

"I went through the wall," boasts the legend on the front — an allusion to the belief that a mysterious, metaphorical wall exists at around 21 miles that runners must climb, crash through, or crawl over to reach the finish. There is, too, yet more pasta and sauce, an apple all the way from New Zealand, more water, a sports drink — and a fruit and carbohydrate energy bar.

How anyone ever completed a marathon in the days before the goody-bag is, of course, a mystery: but the marathon party is not over for the runners until they collect the medal. In the long-ago mists of marathoning, you had to finish first, second or third to win a medal. Now, there are medals for all.

'Gifts aplenty — rubs, pins, magazines'

On the back of the coveted award this year is an inspirational thought from Ralph Waldo Emerson, the 19th-century American poet and essayist. "Nothing great," it says, "was ever achieved without enthusiasm."

Enthusiasm is the only thing that the organisers have been unable to stuff in to those goody-bags, but, like the runners, the thousands who turn out to cheer bring bags of enthusiasm of their own.

JOHN BRYANT

Norwegian's influence helps Scottish ace back on road to success

Waitz puts spring in McColgan's step

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

BY HER own admission, Liz McColgan had run to the crossroads and was in danger of going straight on. "I was at an uncertain point in my career," she said yesterday. "I would probably have run myself into the ground. I would probably still be hitting my head against the wall, not getting the performances I am capable of." What happened? Like a traffic cop, Grete Waitz appeared from a side road.

One might have been tempted, listening to McColgan talking confidently about her prospects for the Flora London Marathon on Sunday — "I am as well prepared as I have ever been" — to conclude that we had heard it all before. Two London Marathons so far, neither producing a victory, and a seventh place in her most recent marathon, in Tokyo last November, serve only to remind us that her fastest time was set five years ago and, at 2hr 27min 32sec, it is not, as she said herself, "that tough a personal best".

The complete list of finishers and times will be published in *The Times* next week.

What made yesterday different was that McColgan's optimism was endorsed by one of the marathon's most respected figures. Waitz not only compiled a marathon career comprising nine New York City victories, two London triumphs, a world title and an Olympic silver medal, but also she was renowned for her honesty. So, when Waitz says that "based on her training, she [McColgan] should win it", we must trust that McColgan has a better than even chance of giving London its first British women's champion since Veronique Marot in 1989.

Waitz has been coaching McColgan since London last year and explains away her performance in Tokyo as an experiment of training at altitude before a marathon that did not work. They teamed up after Waitz kept coming across McColgan training in Gainesville, Florida.

"I saw how she looked and I was shaking my head," Waitz said. "She looked tired all the time. I told her that, if she needed my help, I was available." McColgan's fifth place in London, with each of her marathons getting progressively slower, convinced her that Waitz might have something to offer.

"After London, she wrote me a letter and asked if I would coach her," Waitz said. "Liz does not benefit from the type of running Uta Pippig [the Boston champion] does — 140 to 150 miles a week. She needs the balance between quantity and quality."

Under Waitz, McColgan reduced her mileage and upgraded her quality sessions. "When she was self-coached, none of her miles were really easy and none were as hard as they were supposed to be because she was too tired," Waitz said.

McColgan's iron will and heavy training mileage is legendary and, even after the new partnership began, Waitz had to give her charge, the 1991 world 10,000 metres champion, an ultimatum.

"My biggest problem was convincing her that, to train hard, you have to allow yourself a chance to recover," Waitz said. "Liz has been afraid of taking days off. We had our differences. She would do a little bit of her training and a little bit of mine and I said either we do it my way or not at all.

"I have been there in the marathon and I told Liz I have made the mistakes for her. To coach such a dedicated and disciplined athlete is a pleasure. I do not see any reason why she cannot run as fast as I did or even faster, on the right day on the right course."

Right course it may be on Sunday, but not the right day for McColgan to go chasing Waitz's best of 2hr 24min 54sec. "To win London is much more important than running a personal best, but you do not win this race in a slow time," Waitz said.

In Boston on Monday, Ingrid Kristiansen, Waitz's fellow Norwegian, who holds the world best at 2hr 21min 06sec, had a run out in 2hr 38min. Waitz, though, is not tempted to make a nostalgic return to London's streets. "I know I am a lot slower," she said. "I do not have to prove it." Proving herself as a coach is all that matters now.

McColgan, right, with Helen Kimaiyo, of Kenya, at Tower Bridge yesterday, part of the route of the London Marathon. Photograph: Adrian Sherratt

THE UNEXPLAINED

Was George Herbert, The Earl of Carnarvon a victim of the curse of Tutankhamen ?

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

BERMOOTHES

(c) Pronounced as a trisyllable to rhyme with "her bootees". The name of the island in *The Tempest*, feigned by Shakespeare to be enchanted and inhabited by witches and devils. He probably had the newly discovered Bermudas rattling around at the back of his magpie mind.

PHLEGETHON

(c) A river of liquid fire in Hades, flowing into the Acheron, the "woeful river", Cocytus "lamentation", and Styx, "abhorred Styx, the flood of deadly hate". From the Greek *phlegein* to burn. The Ancient underworld was a nasty waterland. Milton again: "Fierce Phlegethon,/ Whose waves of torrent fire inflame with rage."

HANSE

(b) Originating in the 13th century as an organisation of German merchants trading in northern Europe, it became a loose federation of nearly 100 towns by the mid-14th century. They were headed by Lübeck. It acquired a monopoly of the Baltic trade and dominated the North Sea routes until challenged by English, Dutch, and Scandinavian competitors in the 15th century.

CHARIVARI

(a) A French term for an uproar caused by banging pans and kettles and accompanied by hissing, shouting, etc., to express disapproval. As a verb (*charivariser*) it means to subject someone to disapproval. Originally a common practice at weddings in medieval France, it was later only used as a derisive or satirical demonstration at unpopular weddings.

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8PM TONIGHT
HISTORY'S MYSTERIES

A Television Premiere

George Herbert died five months after discovering the treasure-laden tomb of King Tutankhamen. Was this a co-incidence?

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RADIO CHOICE

The key to a music feast

Evening Concert. *Classic FM, 8.00pm.*

Weird and wonderful are some of the themes that decide the content of these evening concerts on Classic FM. Last night, every item was designed to help us to plan our summer holiday. Weather and the seasons are great favourites: so are animals and the first of this, that, or the other. There is a hint of desperation, however, in the theme tonight. Everything is in the key of D. This gives the compiler of Classic FM's programme schedules a once-in-a-lifetime chance to talk about "a D—lightful concert". And indeed, with one possible exception, it *is* a delightful choice — Brahms's Symphony No 2, Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, a Telemann Trumpet Concerto, and that D—cidedly overfamiliar Canon by Pachelbel.

Utopia and Other Destinations. *Radio 4, 11.30pm.*

Interviewer Michael O'Donnell gives film director Peter Greenaway a fair hearing tonight. This is something he does not always get from the critics, which explains why his Utopia would not be overpopulated with them. Would there be cinemas in his Utopia? Not if all they showed were films such as *Jurassic Park*, which Greenaway wrongly attributes to Michael Scorsese. In Greenaway's book, Eisenstein is the only cinema genius, and a fusion of Eisenstein and Joyce's *Ulysses* would be his cinematic ideal. Because Greenaway is probably the cinema's leading intellectual aesthete, his heaven on earth would exclude *Desert Island Discs*.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo **4.00am** Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley, incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, incl **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat **7.00** Evening Session **9.00** Soundbite **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **12.00** Clare Sturgess, incl at **12.15am** The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** Paul Heiney **7.00** The News Huddlines **7.30** David Allan **9.00** Paul Jones **10.00** Gospel Train **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme incl **6.55**, **7.55** Racing preview **8.35** The Magazine incl **10.35** Euronews **11.30** Health News **12.00** Midday with Mair incl **12.34pm** Moneycheck with Katie Derham **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five incl at **3.15** Prime Minister's Question Time **3.05, 3.450** Racing from Newmarket **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide incl **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra with Valerie Sanderson, incl at **7.20** Sport **7.35** On the Line Topical sports documentary series **8.05** Women on Top, with Eleanor Oldroyd **9.05** SportsAmerica with Alton Byrd **9.35** American Graffiti **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night, with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

6.30am The Breakfast Show with Paul Ross **10.00** Scott Chisholm **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **3.00** Tommy Boyd **5.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Sport **10.00** James Whale **1.00** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **BST. 5.00am** News **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** World Today **7.30** Sports International **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** Network UK **9.00** News in German **9.15** Composer of the Month **9.45** Health Matters **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** Sports International **10.45** Sport **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Off the Shelf **12.00** World News **12.30pm** Meridian **1.00** News in German **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** *Assignment* **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Multitrack: X Press **4.00** News **4.05** Sport **4.15** BBC English **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Britain Today **6.00** News **6.10** World Today **6.25** Take Five **6.30** News in German **6.45** Sport **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** Assignment **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.01** Outlook **9.25** Words of Faith **9.30** John Peel **10.00** World News **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sport **12.00** News **12.10am** Take Five **12.15** Soundbyte **12.30** Blues World **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Good Books **1.45** Britain Today **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Outlook **2.55** Words of Faith **3.00** Newsday **3.30** Thirty-Minute Drama **4.00** News **4.15** Sport **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Travel Guide **8.00** Evening Concert See Choice **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyle **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew MacGregor. Tchaikovsky (String Quartet No 3 in E flat minor); Haydn (Horn Concerto No 1 in D, H VIId 3); Henry Lawes (Ariadne's Lament); Prokofiev (Suite, Lieutenant Kije); Veracini (Overture No 6 in B flat); Franck (Le Chasseur maudit)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Catriona Young. C P E Bach (Double Concerto in E flat, Wq 47); Chopin (Polonaises, Op posth: in A flat, 1821; in G sharp minor, 1822); Bruch (Symphony No 3 in E)

10.00 Musical Encounters, presented by Piers Burton-Page. *Artist of the Week*: Charles Groves conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Delius (A Song for Summer) **10.11** Charpentier (Médée, Act 4); Griffes (The Pleasure-Dome of Kubla Khan); Morton Gould (Fall River Legend); Sibelius (Symphony No 5, 1915 version)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Debussy. Includes. Nocturnes, La Puerta del vino, Les Terrasses des audiences (Preludes BkII), Les Parfum de la nuit; Le Matin d'un jour de fete (Images)

1.00pm We Must Get Together Some Time. Gordon Stewart introduces a selection of operatic excerpts (2/3)

2.00 Schools Radio Showcase **2.05** In the News **2.25** Something to Think About **2.40** Music Workshop

3.00 The BBC Orchestras: BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under George Hurst. Benjamin Frith, piano Tippett (Ritual Dances, The Midsummer Marriage, Piano Concerto) **4.05** Beethoven's Summer Visit to Gratz Castle **4.10** Concert, part 2 Beethoven (Symphony No 4 in B flat) **4.45** Muzio Clementi Sonata in D, Op 25 No 6 Peter Katin plays a square piano built by Clementi and Co

5.00 The Music Machine. With Janice Forsyth

5.15 In Tune. Includes, Berwald (Overture, The Queen of Golconda), Haydn (Piano Trio in A, H XV 18); Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 2 in F, BWV 1047)

7.30 The Sibelius Symphonies. From the Barbican Hall in London. The Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra under Neeme Jarvi. The Oceanides; Symphony No 4; Symphony No 1. Introduced by Michael Oliver

9.20 Emotion Pictures, by Wim Wenders. The fourth part of the road movie for the radio. Dramatised by Neil Cargill

9.40 Master Strokes. Telemann (The Faithful Music Master, excerpts)

10.00 Music Restored, with Helen Garrison. A concert of 13th and 14th-century motets performed by Sinfonye in Cheltenham last year

10.45 Night Waves. Humphrey Carpenter talks to Ray Monk about his biography of Bertrand Russell and visits a new sculpture exhibition in Leeds

11.30 Composer of the Week: Georg Muffat (r)

12.30-1.00am Jazz Notes. With Digby Fairweather

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (**LW** only) **6.00 News Briefing** Inc Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today inc **7.25**, **8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze

10.00 News; Pankhiraj. The final part of Tanika Gupta's comedy

10.00 Daily Service (LW only)

10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)

10.30 Woman's Hour

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent

12.00 News; You and Yours With Chris Choi

12.25pm Looking Forward to the Past, with Paul Boateng, MP **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One

1.40 The Archers

2.00 News; The Electric Angel, by Beatrice Colin. The story of a young man from Oban who comes to the big city for a job and meets the girl of his dreams. With Liam Brennan, Deirdre Davis and Anne Kristen

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen talks to the author Sebastian Faulkes about his unusual triple biography

4.45 Short Story. Don't You Recognise Him, by Rhidian Brook. Read by Garrick Hagon

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Darling You Were Marvellous. The last in the series with Sandi Toksvig, Neil Mullarkey, Fred Macaulay, Toby Longworth and Kevin Eldon

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 At Death's Door... At Louisiana State Penitentiary, the state is preparing to execute Antonio James after 15 years on death row and 14 stays of execution. Against this background, British lawyer Clive Stafford Smith talks about defending the lives of death row inmates

8.00 Analysis: Defusing the Population Bomb. The world's human population is growing at an unprecedented rate. Richard D. North examines the evidence for a cheerful view of the population explosion

8.45 Better Left Unsaid? The second of six unsent letters. Actress and writer Pui Fan Lee writes to her former lover

9.00 Does He Take Sugar? With Frederick Dove

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight

10.45 Book at Bedtime. The Devil's Own Work, by Alan Judd (4/5) (r)

11.00 Second Bite - Late Night. The Angel of Islington by Alex Marmikides. Arthur awakes to find an angel at the foot of his bed. With Alec McCowen, Elaine Claxton, Andrew Branch, Ross Livingstone and Sandra James Young (r)

11.30 Utopia and Other Destinations (FM only) See Choice

11.30 Today in Parliament (LW only)

12.00 News incl **12.27am** Weather

12.30 The Late Book: Kitchen, by Banana Yoshimoto (4/5) **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO UK.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson**

Bit of a lonesome rogue? Must be McShane

There ought to be a law against theme tunes that include a swooping double bass, really there ought. They make the whole thing too easy. From the first lazily slid note, redolent of late nights and low dives, we know exactly what we are in for. Don't tell me, it's about a chap — bit of a rogue, bit of a loner — who somewhere along the line has mislaid his first name. Tinkle, tinkle went a second-and-a-half of misleading piano and then, dooo-woop. **Madson** (BBC1) had arrived.

Madson — surprise, surprise — turned out to be a bit of a rogue. Used to be a professional gambler but has spent the past eight years in prison which, by the way, is why he is also a bit of a loner. But now he is out, having gained a law degree and used it to conduct a successful appeal against his conviction for murdering his wife. John (what are formulas for, if not to be broken?) Madson is now a man on a mission. He wants a job, a proper job.

He will, of course, get one but we're getting ahead of ourselves. Two things needed to be established in last night's opening episode. First Ian McShane needed to cast out the friendly and highly profitable ghost of *Lovejoy*. This he did pretty successfully — where Lovejoy (another ex-con) was scheming and funny, Madson is industrious and miserable. Lovejoy would sell you the midnight oil, Madson burns it.

The second crucial thing was to establish Madson as a man alone, yet surrounded by attractive women. Hardly a challenge to a resourceful casting director, but successfully arranged nonetheless. There was Elaine (Shirley Anne Field), his prison visitor, who now Madson is free is outwardly concerned that he might be manipulating her. Secretly, you rather get the impression that she wouldn't much mind if he did. The ghost of Lady Jane walked again.

Then there was Magda (Joanna Kanska), high-flying lawyer, potential employer and first flirt in line. "No mayonnaise," they shouted meaningfully at each other from time to time. What hope a relationship based on salad dressing? We shall see.

Lastly there was Sarah (Jayne Ashbourne), who spent most of the episode as Madson's daughter-in-law until her husband (and his son) succumbed to the drug overdose that had already left him in a coma. She was distraught, he was distraught. She, however, is very pretty and he is newly out of prison. A curious episode with a prostitute ("I'll have a cup of tea please, Mandy") may have established him as a man of commendable restraint and she may be young enough to be... well, his son's widow, but I fear complications lie ahead.

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

As is traditional in McShane productions, male companionship came in the form of a double act: Gordon Berry (Thomas Craig) and his Uncle Donald (David Arlen), two likeable rogues who run a car repossession business together with a bit of freelance breaking and entering. How they know Madson has not yet been explained, but my guess is that Eric and Tinker introduced them.

Apart from Madson's unprisonlike tan and one horrendous edit which saw Magda begin a sentence on one side of the road and finish it on the other, the series made an encouraging start. Swoop away, Mr Bassman.

From dooo-woops to ding-ding-ding. **University Challenge** (BBC2) last night reached the semi-final stage in absolutely cracking form. Jeremy Paxman is now perfectly at home in the chair, the questions range from the easy to the fiendishly esoteric and, best of all, last night was a serious grudge match, pitting the effortless superiority of Selwyn College, Cambridge, against the angry young men (and they were all men) of the London School of Economics. Or so I thought.

It soon became clear that my student stereotypes were a good decade or two out of date. "Hello, I'm David Thwaites from the reborn county of Rutland," said a friendly looking chap from the LSE. In my day he would have been an egg-throwing member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Rutland. As for Selwyn, they seemed to have perfected the art of effortless inferiority. On the rare occasions they did bother to press their buzzers, they were nearly always wrong.

Unstoppable best describes the LSE team. "In June 1995 which multinational...?" "Shell." OK, so you'd expect them to be good on the unacceptable faces of capitalism, but it didn't stop there. They got two out of three on Einstein (I got one and only then because it came up in the first chapter of *A Brief History of Time*); three out of three on 20th-century philosophers (none — how was I to know Kierkegaard was 19th century?) and three out of three on department stores (two, but then I've never been to Moscow). An LSE that knows department stores is surely destined to go all the way.

On Channel 4, a **Dispatches** team was showing that they knew an awful lot about Sudan's alleged role as a centre for training Islamic terrorists. Unfortunately, neither Deborah Davies, the reporter, nor Dominic Ozanne, the director, seemed to have given quite enough thought to how to make their subject interesting for others.

But, once you got past a bafflingly complex opening ten minutes and some over-hostile questioning from Davies, the pair got into their stride. Their research was extensive and the subsequent allegations — at least, as far as a layman could determine — impressively well sourced. Investigative journalism is expensive and out of fashion. Those that pursue it deserve our encouragement.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (43760)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (74031)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (7742692)

9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7975654)

9.45 Kilroy (s) (1035147)

10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (31857)

12.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (6738857) **12.05pm Room for Improvement** (s) (8516147)

12.35 Going for Gold with Henry Kelly (s) (3667505)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (84418)

1.30 Regional News and weather (94309302)

1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (44418166)

2.00 The Flying Doctors. Adventure and action with Australia's flying medical services (Ceefax) (s) (38499)

3.30 Playdays (r) (1540760) **3.50 Dinobabies** (s) (1537296) **4.10 The Wizard of Oz** (Ceefax) (2747147) **4.35 The Boot Street Band** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (9346857)

5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (1859708)

5.10 The Ant and Dec Show. Variety show hosted by Ant McPartin and Declan Donnelly. (Ceefax) (s) (1048012)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (294586)

6.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (741)

6.30 Regional News magazines (321)

7.00 Top of the Pops. (Ceefax) (s) (3437)

7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (505)

8.00 Wildlife on One: Stoats in the Priory. The first film of the elusive wild stoat in its native habitat, among the gardens and ruins of Mount Grace Priory in North Yorkshire. (Ceefax) (s) (9857)

8.30 Noel's NTV Stars. Noel Edmonds looks at some favourite moments from the last five years of *Noel's House Party* (s) (1692)

9.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party (173741)

9.05 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (597147)

9.35 Absolutely Fabulous. Edina has reached the milestone of her 40th birthday (r). (Ceefax) (s) (199789)

10.05 Making Babies. A focus on Professor Robert Winston who runs Britain's busiest IVF clinic at London's Hammersmith Hospital. After 11 weeks of tension, Ray and Tania reach the stage of the operation to collect the eggs. Anna and Jack have already gone beyond this, with eggs fertilised and in the test-tube. But Anna knows that, at the age of 42, her chances of success are slim (Ceefax) (s) (672760)

10.55 Question Time from Southampton. The guests are the MPs David Willetts, George Robertson and Diana Maddock, and a Green Party spokesman, Peg Alexander (Ceefax) (2814418)

12.00 FILM: Longtime Companion (1990) with Bruce Davison. A group of New York gay men come to terms with the onslaught of Aids. Directed by Norman Rene (Ceefax) (441277)

1.35am Weather (5201797)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Ancient Athens (7576302) **6.25** Public Space, Public Work (7595437) **6.50** Engineering Materials: Hidden Power (8579079)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (4656302)

7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (r) (Ceefax) (62296) **8.00 Blue Peter** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1279708) **8.25 Brum** (r) (5521514)

8.40 The Record (8496789)

9.05 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, **10.00-10.25** Playdays (6720963)

2.00 Brum (47094352)

2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5947944)

3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (7603302)

3.05 Westminster with Nick Ross (7693437) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) (2830876)

4.00 Today's the Day (s) (234)

4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (418)

5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (Ceefax) (s) (5231073)

5.40 Carrier's Caribbean: Barbados (584447)

5.55 Global Warning: Malaria Bites Back (579302)

6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (652963)

6.45 The O Zone (s) (289437)

7.00 Waiting for God (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1079) **WALES: 7.00** TNG (1079) **7.30** Dad's Army (147)

7.30 First Sight: One Foot in the Door. David Strahan reports on the role of bailiffs (147) **EAST: 7.30** Matter of Fact **MIDLANDS: 7.30** Midlands Report **NORTH, NORTH EAST, NORTH WEST: 7.30** Close Up North **SOUTH: 7.30** Southern Eye **SOUTH WEST: 7.30** Close Up **WEST: 7.30** Close Up West

8.00 CHOICE **Secrets of the Paranormal: Doctor Who?** (Ceefax) (s) (7499)

8.30 Top Gear. BMW's new 5-series (Ceefax) (s) (9234)

The last Shah of Iran (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Reputations: Mohammad Reza Pahlavi — The Last Shah** (Ceefax) (s) (2673)

10.00 Sykes (r) (Ceefax) (s) (40499)

10.30 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party (856505)

10.35 Newsnight (Ceefax) (376234)

11.15 Late Review (983708)

12.00 *The Midnight Hour* with Trevor Phillips (s) (59242)

12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone Open University — Developing World (95154) **1.00** Networks (72722) **1.30** Technology (16600) **2.00** FETV Short Cuts: Problem Solving (98221) **4.00** BBC Focus: Italia 2000 (32113) **4.30** Wise Up (54248838) **4.45** Find Out About BBC Focus (41750074) **5.00** Health and Safety at Work (38890) **5.30** The Adviser (50971)

CHOICE

Secrets of the Paranormal: Doctor Who?
BBC2, 8.00pm

Ray Brown, a former building worker from Portsmouth, is two people. He shares his body with Paul, who was a doctor 2,000 years ago in Judaea during the rule of the Romans. In the guise of Paul, Ray practises as a spirit surgeon, bringing hope to sick people who have despaired of conventional medicine. To turn himself into Paul, Ray goes into a trance, and although the two men look the same their voices are eerily different. Ray denies that he is a miracle worker: "I just provide the body for the spirit of a dead man." His patients include solicitors and milkmen and the complaints range from bad backs to cancer. Sceptics might want to know more about his success rate but the woman crippled with pain who, after treatment from "Paul", is able to get off her bed and walk, seems genuine enough.

Hollywood Pets
ITV, 8.30pm

From the team that gave you Hollywood's women, men and children comes a parallel series on dogs, cats, pigs and any other domestic animal good for a few minutes of eye-catching footage. The premise of the series is that American pets, and their owners, are much more outlandish than their British counterparts. But the proposition, while no doubt true, becomes self-defeating. Somehow you expect rich Californians to behave like this and once you have seen a woman carefully painting her pig's toenails, or witnessed a solemn marriage between two dogs, nothing comes as a surprise. Not even a horse which is so house-trained that it fetches its owner a beer from the fridge or an elderly eccentric who keeps frogs and teaches them the value of positive thinking.

Reputations: The Last Shah
BBC2, 9.00pm

Muhammad Reza Pahlavi, better known as the Shah of Iran, was a ruler who could not win. If he tried to modernise a backward and traditional country he fell foul of Muslim fundamentalists determined to sustain old values. If he failed to move towards constitutional democracy he alienated progressive opinion. His reign, which ran from 1941 to 1979, was a jumble of contradictions. He tried autocracy and benevolence in turn but in the end satisfied nobody. This reassessment projects a shy and timid man, genuinely trying to do the best for his people but tragically out of touch with popular opinion. When the Shah died in exile from cancer, the regime of Ayatollah Khomeini publicly rejoiced in the passing of "the bloodsucker of the century". He gets a kinder appreciation here.

Witness: Surviving Waco
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Three years after the Waco inferno, followers of David Koresh, leader of the Branch Davidian religious sect, still believe that he was the son of God and will return from the dead to take them up to Heaven. It is easy to be scornful of such a naive faith, more difficult to explain why so many were seduced by it. Gwyneth Hughes does her best in a film which goes back over the events of 1993 and talks to survivors of the conflagration in which Koresh and 80 followers died. The programme attests to the appeal of the sect but struggles to account for its extraordinary hold. Marjorie Thomas, a Nottingham care assistant who suffered 60 per cent burns in the fire, can only say that Koresh's message made sense at the time. Jeff Jamar, the agent who led the controversial FBI operation against the sect, offers his perspective. **Peter Waymark**

6.00am GMTV (5472728)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (7983673)

9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (6707012)

10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (2310505)

10.35 This Morning (44110505) **12.20pm Regional News** (Teletext) (6727741)

12.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (3653302) **12.55 Shortland Street** (s) (3661321) **1.25 Coronation Street** (r) (Teletext) (5894963)

2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (54507128) **2.25 Chain Letters.** Word game with Vince Henderson. (Teletext) (s) (54519963) **2.50 Vanessa.** (Teletext) (s) (4855437)

3.20 ITN News (Teletext) (7610692)

3.25 Regional ITN News (Teletext) (7619963)

3.30 The Riddlers (r) (8755147) **3.40 Wizadora** (r) (s) (7570418) **3.50 Rupert** (s) (1546944) **4.15 Mike and Angelo** (r) (s) (2731586) **4.40 Crazy Cottage** (Teletext) (s) (5236437)

5.10 A Country Practice (s) (4228514)

5.40 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (489893) **5.55 Your Shout** (573128)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (s) (437)

6.25 HTV News with Bruce Hockin and Sue King. (Teletext) (441944)

7.00 Emmerdale. (Teletext) (s) (8505)

7.30 3-D. Katy Haswell investigates the appalling conditions of animals in a European zoo (s) (673)

8.00 The Bill: Tale of Two Cities. An unlikely friendship between two teenage boys is all that stands between Greig and a local drug dealer (Teletext) (4925)

Canine wedded bliss (8.30pm)

8.30 CHOICE **Hollywood Pets.** (Teletext) (s)(6760)

9.00 Ellington: Deuce. Drama series set in the world of sports promotion. (Teletext) (s) (6499)

10.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party (958789)

10.05 ITN News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (605925)

10.35 Regional News (Teletext) (575128)

10.45 Getaways. Reports on salmon fishing tuition on the Exe; the Ardennes Forest in Belgium; and an activities holiday in the New Forest. (Teletext) (437128)

11.15 On the Line. Topical discussion chaired by Ken Rees (427741)

11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (690586)

12.40am Carnal Knowledge (4150600)

1.40 Not Fade Away. Boy George selects his favourite music videos (s) (4317890)

2.40 Shift. Work by directors and producers new to television (3596074)

3.35 Late & Loud (r) (s) (9740971)

4.30 The Time . . . the Place (r) (s) (84513)

5.00 Garden Calendar (r) (32616)

5.30 ITN Morning News (54797) Ends **6.00**

As HTV WEST except:

6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (441944)

7.30-8.00 Upwardly Mobile (673)

10.45 Strangely Scientific (437128)

11.15-11.45 3-D (427741)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.25pm-12.30 My Story (6735760)

12.55 Emmerdale (3661321)

1.25-1.55 Chain Letters. Word game with cash prizes, presented by Vince Henderson (79094857)

1.55 Home and Away (68194012)

2.25 Vanessa (54500215)

2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (6324272)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (4228514)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (72586)

10.45 The LADS (437128)

11.15-11.45 The Making of Broken Arrow (427741)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55pm Home and Away (3661321)

1.25 Chain Letters (79094857)

1.55 A Country Practice (44482741)

2.20 Vanessa (54501944)

2.50-3.20 High Road (4855437)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (4228514)

6.25 Central News and Weather (867079)

6.55-7.00 Life Line (713079)

10.45 Film: Columbo — No Time to Die (82423692)

12.50am Carnal Knowledge (1734432)

1.45 Not Fade Away (4303906)

3.35 Customs Classified (2850722)

4.20 Jobfinder (5889600)

5.20 Asian Eye (1080890)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55pm Chain Letters (3661321)

1.25 Home and Away (79094857)

1.55 Shortland Street (44482741)

2.20 Vanessa. Studio discussion series (54501944)

2.50-3.20 Surprise Chefs (4855437)

5.10 Home and Away (4228514)

5.37-5.40 Three Minutes — Crimestoppers (586692)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (437)

6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (789)

10.45 Film: The Dirty Dozen: The Fatal Mission (15522708)

12.40am Phoenix (4150600)

5.00 Freescreen (32616)

S4C

Starts. **6.35 Fifteen to One** (8543654) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (67741) **9.00 The Golden Girls** (47302) **9.30 Film: The Cisco Kid and the Lady** (6263383) **10.50 Windy Day** (3033128) **11.00 Tears of the Dragon** (66012) **12.00 House to House** (67166) **12.30pm Hullaballoo** (95437) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (77128) **1.30 Bush Tucker Man** (94708) **2.00 Jimmy's** (5031) **2.30 Channel 4 Racing From Newmarket** (56166) **4.30 The Lonely Planet** (586) **5.00 5 Pump Uned 5** (6383) **5.30 Fifteen to One** (166) **6.00 Newyddion** (206944) **6.15 Heno** (190708) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (970437) **7.25 Corws** (729654) **8.00 Cleck** (5895) **8.30 Newyddion** (4302) **9.00 Banana** (5012) **9.30 Abductees** (75673) **10.00 Film: Wild at Heart** (82667050) **12.20am Dispatches** (3532180)

6.35am Fifteen to One with William G. Stewart (r) (Teletext) (s) (8543654)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (67741)

9.00 The Golden Girls (r). (Teletext) (s) (47302)

9.30 FILM: The Cisco Kid and the Lady (1939, b/w) starring Cesar Romero, Robert Barrat and Marjorie Weaver. Western adventure about a heart-of-gold Mexican bandit. Directed by Herbert I Leeds (6263383)

10.50 The Windy Day Animation (3033128)

11.00 Tears of the Dragon The second of a three-part look at Mao's environmental legacy in China (r) (Teletext) (66012)

12.00 House to House (67166)

12.30pm Sesame Street (r) (61609) **1.30 Hullaballoo** with Floella Benjamin. Followed by **Alfie Atkins** (r) (94708)

2.00 Jimmy's (r) (Teletext) (s) (5031)

2.30 Channel 4 Racing from Newmarket Live coverage of the **2.35, 3.05, 3.40** and **4.10** races (s) (56166)

4.30 Fifteen to One. (Teletext) (s) (586)

5.00 Ricki Lake The guests are women of ample proportions. (Teletext) (s) (4559073)

5.45 Terrytoons followed by **Murun Buchstansangur** (639316)

6.00 NBA 24/7 Miami Heat play host to the New York Nicks (609)

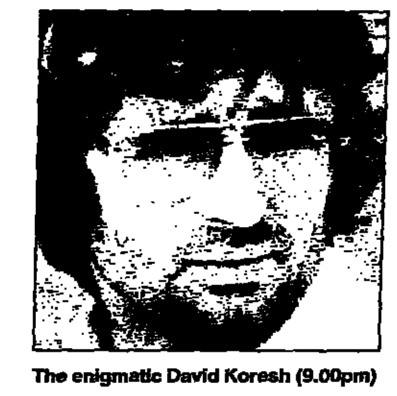
6.30 Roseanne (r). (Teletext) (s) (401)

7.00 Channel 4 News Includes headlines and weather at 7.30. (Teletext) (843673)

7.50 The Slot. Viewers' video soapbox (646128)

8.00 Africa Express The last in the series. Toyin Fani-Kayode investigates the role of the Shell oil company in her home country of Nigeria; Joseph Warungu sees the latest development in the African advertising industry; Beathur Baker is in Angola for the annual carnival in the capital, Luanda. (Teletext) (s) (5895)

8.30 The Real Holiday Show (r). (Teletext) (s) (4302)



The enigmatic David Koresh (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Witness: Surviving Waco** (Teletext) (7741)

10.00 NYPD Blue New York police drama series. Simone and Sipowicz investigate the death of the son of a local crime boss. (Teletext) (s) (399925)

10.55 Whose Line Is It Anyway? Improvised comedy (r) (Teletext) (s) (162128)

11.30 Rory Bremner — Who Else? (r) (s) (418079)

12.10am Dispatches (r). (Teletext) (3445600)

12.55 FILM: The Glass Menagerie (1987) starring Joanne Woodward, John Malkovich and Karen Allen. Tennessee Williams's stage drama about an oppressive mother, her poet husband and their crippled and painfully shy daughter. Directed by Paul Newman. (Teletext) (54920432). Ends at **3.20**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am Undun (27147) **9.00** Press Your Luck (8462673) **9.20** Love Connection (9891302) **9.45** The Oprah Winfrey Show (6300168) **10.40** Jeopardy! (2677302) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (9185234) **12.00** Beechy (27050) **1.00pm** Hotel (62370) **2.00** Geraldo (81857) **3.00** Court TV (4944) **3.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (5530050) **4.15** Undun (9194439) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (5296) **6.00** The Simpsons (2215) **6.30** Jeopardy! (6895) **7.00** LAPD (6925) **7.30** M*A*S*H (2079) **8.00** Through the Keyhole (5673) **8.30** Animal Practice (4708) **9.00** The Commish (60789) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (63876) **11.00** Melrose Place (83003) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (7126258) **12.45am** The Trials of Rosie O'Neill (5454056) **1.30** Anything But Love (93884) **2.00** Hit Mix Long Play (9107664)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour. **9.30am** Beyond 2000 (86505) **10.30** ABC Nightline News (94234) **1.30pm** CBS News (60079) **2.30** Parliament Live (4812695) **3.15** Parliament Live (4238876) **5.00** Live at Five **6.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (33654) **7.30** Sportsline (71234) **8.30** Reuters Reports (5050) **11.30** CBS News (70893) **12.30am** ABC World News (79154) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton Replay (90659) **2.30** Reuters Reports (58722) **3.30** Parliament Replay (60567) **4.30** CBS Evening News (47906) **5.30** ABC World News (98797)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am The Girl Most Likely (1957) (95418) **8.00 Blood on the Moon** (1948) (45827) **10.00 Walk Like a Man** (1987) (19031) **12.00 Howard: A New Breed of Hero** (1986) (88760) **2.00pm Author! Author!** (1982) (54128) **4.00 Bedtime Story** (1964) (5888) **6.00 I Spy Returns** (1993) (78288296) **7.40 US Top Ten** (754586) **8.00 The Flintstones** (1994) (79437) **10.00 The Crow** (1994) (867147) **11.45 Knights** (1992) (936286) **1.20am The Long Day's Dying** (1968) (2140819) **2.50 Web of Deceit** (1994) (4437451) **4.20 Bedtime Story** (1964) (994567)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Daddy Long Legs (1955) (34886505) **6.10 3:10 to Yuma** (1957) (60207963) **8.00 What's New, Pussycat?** (1965) (51079) **10.00 From Hell to Victory** (1979) (108401) **11.50 Compulsion** (1959) (325031) **1.35-3.20pm The Phantom of Liberty** (1974) (837426)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Rin Tin Tin — Hero of the West (1955) (76760) **8.00 Aladdin** (1993) (4106673) **8.50 Thumbelina** (2757505) **10.05 Back to the Beach** (1987) (20536050) **12.00 Meet Me in Las Vegas** (1956) (86302) **2.00pm My Favourite Spy** (1951) (45470) **4.00 Aladdin** (1993) (12654) **5.00 Les Misérables** (1988) (1234) **6.00 Cradle of Conspiracy** (1994) (65234) **8.00 So I Married an Axe Murderer** (1993) (98234) **9.30 The Movie Show** (26789) **10.00 Snapdragon** (1993) (382031) **11.40 The Red Shoe Diaries No 2: Double Dare** (1992) (988695) **1.15am Deadly Whispers** (1994) (670548) **2.50 Meet Me in Las Vegas** (1956) (492703) **4.45 Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm** (1938) (7241108)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Muppet Babies (49397031) **6.30** Winnie the Pooh (49732234) **7.00** Ducktales (10161673) **7.30** Quack Attack (10180708) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dale (93342383) **8.30** Wonderland (93341654) **9.00** Umbrella Tree (93365234) **9.30** Fraggle Rock (24538483) **10.00** Muppet Babies (49723586) **10.30** Pooh Corner (93361418) **11.00** Winnie the Pooh (42730418) **11.30** Dumbo's Circus (42731147) **12.00** Disney (31283316) **1.00pm** FILM: In Search of the Castaways (28942586) **2.35** Umbrella Tree (77489741) **3.00** Winnie the Pooh (87615708) **3.30** Ducktales (80309321) **4.00** Quack Attack (80395128) **4.30** Chip 'n' Dale (80384012) **5.00** Boy Meets World (87687925) **5.30** Danger Bay (80308692) **6.00** Tarzan (80305505) **6.30** Dinosaurs (80396857) **7.00** The Torkelsons (87607789) **7.30** Faerie Tale Theatre (46882609) **8.30** Entertainment (92663499) **9.30-10.00** Dinosaurs (30833875)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Equestrianism (28654) **8.30** Cycling (79050) **9.00** Marathon (50586) **10.00** Sumo (77166) **11.00** Formula 1 (76876) **11.30** Motorcycling Magazine (77505) **12.00** Eurofun (80166) **12.30pm** Mountainbike (18437) **1.00** Live Tennis (4481234) **5.00** Tractor Pulling (6708) **6.00** Boxing (93128) **7.00** Sumo (95499) **8.00** Pro Wrestling (76037) **9.00** Football (26514) **11.00** Formula 1 (68857) **11.30** Motorcycling Magazine (17296) **12.00-12.30am** Four-Wheels (31838)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sports Centre (74079) **7.30** World Wrestling Federation Superstars (33586) **8.30** Racing News (51654) **9.00** Aerobics Oz Style (75234) **9.30** Netbusters (31079) **10.30** PGA European Golf Tour — Cannes Open — Live (17050) **12.30pm** Ringside Special (36993) **2.30** Futbol Mundial (7302) **3.00** PGA European Golf Tour — Cannes Open (62505) **5.00** Wrestling (1012) **6.00** Sports Centre (8031) **6.30** Formula 3 Racing (9383) **7.00** Boots 'n' All (765321) **7.55** Sports Centre (847895) **8.00** Basketball — Live (13895) **10.00** Sports Centre (83499) **10.30** The Rugby Club (18383) **11.30** Formula 3 Racing (22128) **12.00** Nascar (30242) **1.00am** Basketball (13616) **3.00-3.30** Sports Centre (82258)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00pm Golf — Nike Tour (3919760) **9.00** Golf — PGA Seniors Open (9065031) **11.00** PGA European Golf Tour (3915944) **12.00-1.00am** Boots 'n' All (4020864)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00 Thought for the Day **4.05** Worship **4.15** Kidz TV **4.30** 700 Club **5.00** Voice of Victory with Kenneth and Gloria Copeland **5.30** Christian Music TV **5.45** This Is Your Day with Benny Hinn

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (8606147) **7.55** As the World Turns (1286079) **8.50** Peyton Place (3321892) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (1434037) **10.10-11.00** Another World (3934296)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (7719789) **11.30** Great Sports Vacations (7710418) **12.00** Moving Postcards (9369578) **12.30pm** Spice of Life (1109944) **1.00** Galaway (3938885) **1.30** Around the World (1108215) **2.00** An American in Tahiti (6042771) **3.00** Globetrotter (4045586) **3.30** Around the World . . . (7258708) **3.55-4.00** Holiday Shop (10237234)

The Rubbles and the Flintstones (Sky Movies, 8.00pm)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Our Century (7793741) **5.00** Memories of 1989 (4069166) **6.00-7.00** Biography (1117963)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am The Six Million Dollar Man (9541513) **2.00** FILM: Tales from the Crypt (84211258) **3.25-4.00** Ray Bradbury Theatre (7187513)

TLC

9.00am Surprise Chefs (3801789) **9.30** Grow Your Own (1774944) **10.00** Stagestruck (4750128) **10.30** Our House (3890673) **11.00** Room for Improvement (7875741) **11.30** Craftwise (7876470) **12.00** Julia Child (3881925) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (1778760) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (1821383) **1.30** Furniture to Go (1777031) **2.00** Our House (8222857) **2.30** Stars and Gardens (6197708) **3.00** Screaming Reels (8234692) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (6168925)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (1824470) **7.30** Neighbours (1843505) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (3880296) **8.30** EastEnders (9812895) **9.00** The Bill (3803147) **9.30** The Sullivans (1776302) **10.00** All Creatures Great and Small (1849789) **11.00** Bullseye (7984499) **11.30** Odd One Out (9978586) **12.05pm** Sons and Daughters (25569963) **12.30** Neighbours (1787418) **1.00** EastEnders (4229505) **1.35** Sykes (2526050) **2.15** Brush Strokes (3289695) **2.50** Butterflies (3923654) **3.30** The Bill (6161383) **4.00** Minder (7908079) **5.00** Every Second Counts (3356827) **5.45** 'Allo 'Allo! (8881078) **6.25** EastEnders (9850895) **7.00** The Two Ronnies (4683925) **8.00** Bullseye (8244079) **8.30** Home James (8223586) **9.00** Minder (4612437) **10.00** The Bill (2778741) **10.35** Bottom (6628692) **11.10** The Sweeney (8242079) **12.15am** Classic Sport (6981722) **1.05** Public Eye (1089819) **2.00** Shopping at Night (1304635) **3.00**

TCC

6.00am Tiny and crew (76050) **7.00** Sesame Street (97586) **8.00** Barney and Friends (29079) **8.30** Dinobabies (11050) **9.00** Art Attack (9973117) **9.15** No Naked Flames (7273215) **9.30** Ready or Not (49321) **10.00** Heartbreak High (92012) **10.30** Hang Time (31906) **11.00** Madison (25166) **11.30** Babysitters Club (26895) **12.00** Garfield and Friends (22166) **12.30pm** The Twisted Tales of Felix the Cat (50437) **1.00** Earthworm Jim (49418) **1.30** Creepy Crawlers (59708) **2.00** Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures (2383) **2.30** Gravedale High (1760) **3.00** Eek the Cat (1418) **3.30** Pink Panther Show (3505) **4.00** California Dreams (2012) **4.30-5.00** Heartbreak High (8296)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Banana Sandwich (30234) **7.00** Killer Tomatoes (65321) **7.30** Pet Shop (51128) **8.00** Wishbone (50925) **8.30** Rude Dog & the Dweebs (59296) **9.00** Biker Mice from Mars (73876) **9.30** Clarissa Explains It All (10895) **10.00** Rugrats (24586) **10.30** Aaahh!! Real Monsters (62760) **11.00** Rocko (72050) **11.30** Doug (80079) **12.00** Sister Sister (53012) **12.30pm** Pete & Pete (81383) **1.00** Capitol Critters (64692) **1.30** Pet Shop (80654) **2.00** Wishbone (9895) **2.30** Rude Dog & the Dweebs (5944) **3.00** Count Duckula (8302) **3.30** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (7789) **4.00** Tales of the Cryptkeeper (6296) **4.30** Rugrats (5708) **5.00** Sister Sister (2037) **5.30** Secret World of Alex Mack (9760) **6.00** Ren & Stimpy (6673) **6.30-7.00** Clarissa (7925)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Time Travellers (6171760) **4.30** Human/Nature (6177944) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (6246437) **5.30** Voyager (6168296) **6.00** Fire (6198437) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (9879383) **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (6178673) **8.00** History's Mysteries (4690215) **9.00** Top Marques (7995605) **9.30** Disaster (1765296) **10.00** Classic Wheels (4613186) **11.00-12.00** Unexplained (1831760)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: The Spiral Staircase (9173760) **1.30pm** Death Valley Days (1771857) **2.00** Department S (4748383) **3.00** Danger Man (7974012) **4.00** FILM: Where the River Runs Black (8232234) **6.00** The Green Hornet (6185963) **6.30** Department S (9805437) **7.30** Sapphire and Steel (6172499) **8.00** Planet of the Apes (4687741) **9.00** Twin Peaks (4607505) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Lovers and Other Strangers (7973383)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Diff'rent Strokes (2893) **7.30** Entertainment (6437) **8.00** Due South (76091) **9.00** Soap (69586) **9.30** Taxi (63037) **10.00** Frasier (54741) **10.30** The Cel Block (75166) **12.30am** Benson (97908) **1.00** Wings (93364) **1.30** Laverne and Shirley (37242) **2.00** Entertainment (31155) **2.30** Dr Katz (16890) **3.00** Ren and Stimpy (82600) **3.30-4.15** Rocky and Bullwinkle (8071451)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (5811895) **7.00** Esther (4006437) **7.30** The Young and the Restless (4806302) **8.30** Going to Pot (8604470) **9.00** The Taste of Health (8633215) **9.35** Kate & Allie (8131925) **10.05** Jerry Springer (8614050) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8107215) **11.55** Brookside (4916876) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (9471760) **1.25** Crosswits (6758418) **2.00** Agony Hour (2411499) **3.00** Live at Three (6789673) **4.00** Infatuation UK (2346654) **4.30** Crosswits (3033692) **5.05** Lingo (43144186) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2366418) **6.00** Bewitched (2356031) **6.30** Brookside (6044895) **7.05** Michael Barry's Choice Cuts (8851401) **7.35** The Joker's Wild (6990963) **8.05** Street Legal (9328079) **9.00** FILM: When She Was Bad (3918499) **11.00-12.00** The Sex Files II (4082857)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Boogies Diner (6963) **5.30** Night Hood (2878) **6.00** Batman (9789) **6.30** Catchphrase (3741) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (3499) **7.30** Mo and the Boys (9925) **8.00** The Beiderbecke Affair (53437) **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: Kissing the Gunner's Daughter (33673) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (36760) **11.00** Sirens (59895) **12.00** Trivial Pursuit (77600) **12.30am** Me and the Boys (33722) **1.00** Batman (22890) **1.30** GP (53258) **2.00** Big Brother Jake (77971) **2.30** Sirens (45242) **3.30** GP (50258) **4.00** Trivial Pursuit (64451) **4.30-5.00** Night Hood

MTV

7.30am Janet Jackson (21012) **8.00** Morning Mix, featuring Cinematic (682654) **11.00** Star Trax (30760) **12.00** Greatest Hits (31302) **1.00pm** Music Non-Stop (15963) **3.00** Select MTV (99741) **4.00** Hanging Out (7692) **6.00** Dial MTV (1147) **6.30** The Big Picture (2499) **7.00** Star Trax (46147) **8.00** Michael Jackson History in Music Video (55895) **9.00** X-ray Eyes (15789) **10.30** Beavis & Butt-Head (81483) **11.00** Headbangers' Ball (84532) **1.00am** Videos (1168093) **5.00** Morning Mix (69093)

VH-1

7.00am Power Breakfast (3937166) **9.00** Cafe VH-1 (3950550) **12.00** Heart and Soul (1120437) **1.00pm** The Vinyl Years (1106857) **2.00** Ten of the Best: Def Leppard (4770019) **3.00** Into the Music (1536741) **6.00** Happy Hour (1119321) **7.00** VH-1 for You (9056654) **8.00** Thursday Review (9064302) **9.00** Ten of the Best: The Beat (9084166) **10.00** The Vinyl Years (9054925) **11.00** Music First (3917302) **12.00** VH-1 to 1 Bruce Springsteen (2481242) **12.30am** The Bridge (7586451) **1.00** Ten of the Best Bonnie Tyler (9543971) **2.00** Dawn Patrol

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran (46657925) **7.30** Zee Presents (37033321) **9.00** Filmi Chakker (26746876) **9.30** Your Zindagi (25194437) **10.00** Tara (46665944) **11.00** Shaku (68676654) **11.30** Hindi FILM: Maryada (44146447) **2.30pm** Bunyaad (83521031) **3.00** Urdu Serial: Uroosa (68688499) **4.00** Zee Top Ten (69690231) **5.00** Zee Zone (27459383) **5.30** Sa Re Ga Ma (85563079) **6.30** Zee and U (83513012) **7.00** Hero Hai Aaj Aur Kal (27479147) **7.30** Galaxee (83519296) **8.00** Zee TV News (27488895) **8.30** Andaz (27467302) **9.00** Urdu Serial: Ajnabee (95960321) **10.00** The Zee Horror Show (26727741) **10.30** Yaadon Ke Rang (26743789) **11.00** Commander (69891963) **11.30-12.00** Aap Ki Farmaish (38488302)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.
7.00pm Hot Millions (1968) (10188079) **9.00 Dark Victory (1939)** (85851215) **11.00 The Rack (1956)** (19726789) **12.50am Cone of Silence (1961)** (43613703) **2.30-5.00 Hot Millions (1968)** (58393364)

PERFORMANCE

7.00pm Mel Lewis **8.00** Ana **8.30** Picasso **10.00** A Mozart Concert **11.15** Ana **12.00-1.00am** The Royal Ellington

BBC WORLD

News on the hour. **8.05am** The Big Trip **9.30** Time Out: The Clothes Show **10.30** Time Out: Top Gear **1.05pm** Horizon **2.15** World Business Report **2.30** Newshour Asia & Pacific **3.30** Time Out: Madhur Jaffrey's Far Eastern Cookery **4.05** Rough Guide to the Americas **5.30** Time Out: The London International Boat Show **8.05** Correspondent **9.30** Time Out: Tomorrow's World **12.10am** Newsnight **4.05** Question Time

RUGBY UNION 42
REDPATH FORCED
TO MISS
SCOTLAND'S TOUR

SPORT

CRICKET 44
BOTHAM MAY FAIL
AUDITION FOR
SELECTOR'S ROLE

THURSDAY APRIL 18 1996

RFU faces cup cash dispute

Final demand presented by leading clubs

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THE two leading rugby union clubs in England yesterday heaped further troubles on the beleaguered Rugby Football Union (RFU).

Bath and Leicester demanded a greater share of the gate receipts for the Pilkington Cup final, the showpiece of the domestic game, which they will contest in front of 75,000 supporters at Twickenham on May 4. The attendance will create a world record for a club match and yield £1.2 million.

The RFU, already at loggerheads with the leading clubs in the Courage Clubs Championship over the structure of the game in the new professional era, now faces a potentially messy dispute over money with two of the most influential rebel clubs, which are due to play other major fixtures, apart from the cup final, at Twickenham within the next five weeks.

Peter Wheeler, the Leicester chief executive, believes the finalists are entitled to greater financial consideration. "We are talking to the RFU and I hope things can be sorted out," he said. Leicester have sold £300,000-worth of tickets for the final and Wheeler claims that administrative costs will eat into their financial return from the competition.

Last season a limit of £35,000 was placed upon the money accruing to the finalists. This year the RFU will take 15 per cent of the gate, to cover their hiring and management costs, and each of the finalists will receive four per cent, around £40,000. This situation is to be reviewed in time for next season but Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, said no amendment would be made to an arrangement that had been agreed by all clubs at the start of this season.

"We believe, and I have had messages of support from many clubs, that there is no intention whatsoever to leave the Pilkington Cup from the top end of the game," Hallett said. That is somewhat at odds with the statement last week by the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs that they would boycott RFU competitions next season in their present format, although they have no quarrel with the structure of the cup.

Hallett did, however, hold out some hope to Bath and Leicester that their costs could be covered, by as much as £10,000, in a manner that would not affect the sums already earmarked for distribution to all participating clubs.

"There is no doubt this final will take place at Twickenham between Bath and Leicester," he said, a statement that would have been unnecessary a few months ago but now reflects the lack of accord between governors and governed. "The game has changed a lot since September, people and management have changed, but the clubs entered the competition knowing the conditions," Hallett said. "For next season we will be able to discuss conditions for the clubs in the new era and a distribution that may be more equitable."

Hallett was happier when discussing an extension to Pilkington's sponsorship of the competition, which was announced yesterday. "The most significant thing is to assess the distribution of the spoils of this sponsorship," he said. "The distribution in the future needs to be adapted and to reflect the position you achieve in the competition."

Pilkington has been a faithful ally to the RFU since 1988. The present, three-year contract, worth £750,000, will increase in value to around £1.1 million for a further three years, thanks largely to Pilkington's withdrawal from the junior club knockout tournament after next month's final between Helston and Medicals. The junior clubs will join forces under a new sponsor with a new intermediate competition.

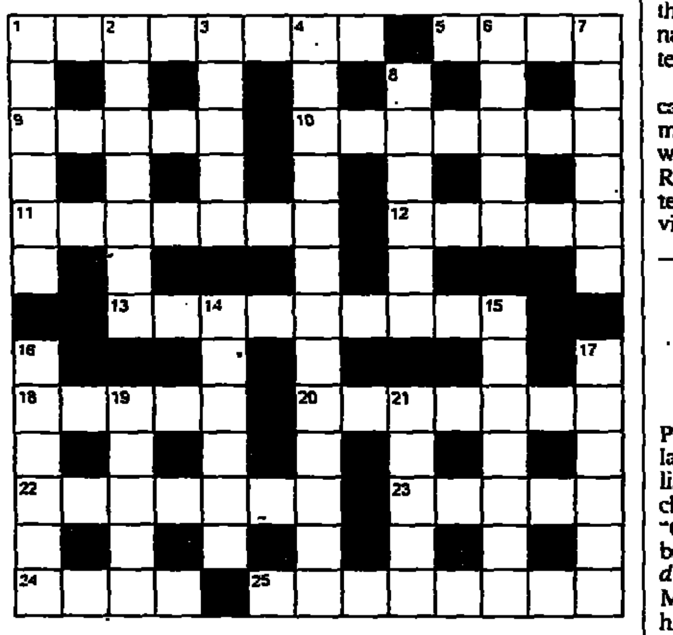
That is of little significance when set against the vote of confidence in the RFU that Pilkington's decision represents. "We see a great future for the cup competition," David Roycroft, the glass company's head of corporate affairs, said, declining to be drawn into the tortuous politics of rugby. It is also an act of faith, given the uncertainty that exists among the five nations over negotiations with television companies.

Television exposure is critical in any sponsorship agreement. Whether within or without the five nations, the RFU seeks a mixed package of terrestrial and satellite television coverage.

Smith retires 42
Triple tie 42

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 759 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
- 1 Get in front of (8)
- 5 SE Asia country, capital Vientiane (4)
- 9 Slightly drunk (5)
- 10 Fruit-tree field (7)
- 11 First manmade satellite (7)
- 12 Check (company's books) (5)
- 13 Vanish (9)
- 18 Franz —, operetta composer (5)
- 20 Crossing (7)
- 22 A nuisance: one whose name is forgotten (2-3-2)
- 23 With ingrained dirt (5)
- 24 Lower part of decorated wall (4)
- 25 Law-breaker (8)

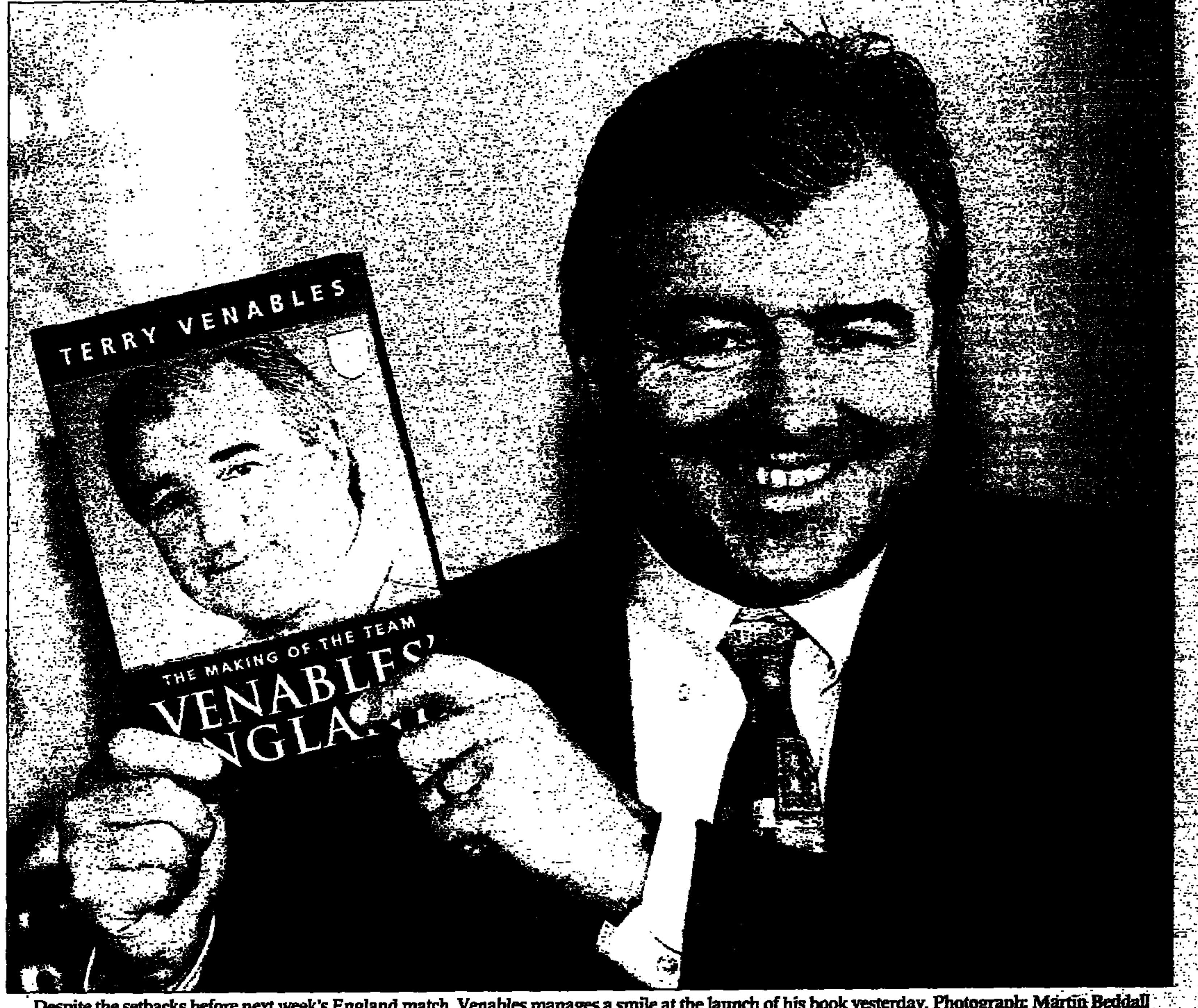
DOWN
- 1 Dull-witted (6)
- 2 Expatiate on (7)
- 3 Wear (clothes) before purchase (3,2)
- 4 Effortlessly outdo (5,5,3)
- 6 Bestow (5)
- 7 Staid: give calming drug (to) (6)
- 8 Abrade; problematic situation (6)
- 14 Walk purposefully, fast (6)
- 15 Withdraw (decision) (7)
- 16 Exclusive; shut (6)
- 17 (Horse) with stamina (6)
- 19 Store against shortage (5)
- 21 Maintain (in debate) (5)

PRIZES:
THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.
THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrows second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe.
All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address ....

SOLUTION TO NO 758
ACROSS: 1 Bower 7 Insider 8 Shingle 9 Twelfth 11 Skewer 13 Dead Souls 15 Pea-souper 19 Durham 21 Genteel 23 At first 24 Derrick 25 Eject
DOWN: 1 Basis 2 Waiver 3 Rugged 4 Diet 5 Rialto 6 Pep talk 10 Wedded 12 Resume 14 Jezebel 16 Satire 17 Ruffle 18 Charge 20 Motet 22 Lake



Despite the setbacks before next week's England match, Venables manages a smile at the launch of his book yesterday. Photograph: Martin Beddall

Venables unfazed by twists in the plot

By Oliver Holt

THE assorted feet of a throng of photographers sank deep into the plush sofas ranged around his west London club, but Terry Venables did not bat an eye. Beside Alan Shearer's Gilmore Groin [strain] and the setback to Tony Adams's dodgy knee, a few scuffed cushions pale into insignificance. The England football coach had had enough news about the breaking of his team: yesterday, he arrived to celebrate the making of it for the launch of his new book, *Venables' England*.

So the cameras whirred, coffee cups chinked on their saucers and Venables posed patiently with the new publication, an intelligent journey through his two-year spell in charge of the national team, a dissection of his tactics, his court cases, his relationship with Paul Gascoigne and the lessons England can learn from Carlos Alberto Parreira's preparation of the Brazilian team for the 1994 World Cup.

Its launch is as good an indication as any that the final phase of the build-up to this summer's European championship is underway, but if Tuesday had been dominated by doom and gloom about the injuries to Adams and Shearer, Venables, never one for making excuses, sauntered into the Scribes West bar after the pictures had been taken and opined that they might, in fact, be a blessing in disguise.

"People talk about how some of our clubs have taken part in 65 games this season and the damage that could do to the players' fitness," Venables said. "But there is not one player in our whole group who has played more than 50. It goes right down to someone like Jamie Redknapp, who has played 30 or 32.

"A lot of members of the squad have been injured and that has given them a bit of a breather in some cases. It can be like a mini-break for some of them, perhaps even Shearer. He is one of those who wants to play all the time and it could just be nature's way of telling him to slow down.

"I have tried to train myself in a positive fashion not to be sidetracked by all these injuries. It is very unfortunate for me and the coaching staff but the show goes on and we have to make sure we show the same sort of confidence in the players who come in instead. They might be the ones who end up playing in the tournament. That is why we have built a big squad of people that can handle whatever comes their way."

Venables, who named Jason Wilcox, of Blackburn Rovers, and Sol Campbell, of Tottenham Hotspur, in his squad for the match against Croatia at Wembley next Wednesday, said he had tried to bring the team's style of play closer to the European norm. "You have got to be careful you don't blast them with too much information, though," he said. "It's a bit like putty. If you just put a bit in the frame, it grows and gets stronger. If you put a big dob on, the wind comes and blows it all out. You have got to make sure it sticks."

His face only creased into a frown when he had to deny fresh reports that the FA was still trying to persuade him to stay on as manager after the European championship. "I'm getting fed up with it," he said. "The situation is exactly the same. Someone has taken a flier and gathered all this up again. They have said I'm talking to Sir Bert [Millichip, the FA chairman] but I haven't spoken to him. We've got no plans to speak as far as I know. He may ring me this afternoon, but at the moment, I can assure you there are no plans to speak."

Ferguson out, page 45
Bayern's final step, page 45

Reid checks over final score

By David Maddock

PETER REID, the Sunderland manager, is not ready to listen to the entreaties of his club's supporters just yet. "Cheer up Peter Reid" they beseech to the tune of *Daydream Believer*, by The Monkees. It is a reference to his now renowned, unmoving demeanour in the face of an impressive rise up the Endsleigh Insurance League first division. So far, even after Sunderland virtually guaranteed promotion on Tuesday evening, their tuneful pleas have been ignored.

Reid did conduct a ribald group through the whole, reworded song in the bar after the victory over Birmingham City at Roker Park on Tuesday. He was, however, as poker-faced as ever and he has, he said, good reason.

"When I was a young player with Bolton, back in the late Seventies, we were in pole position, absolute certainties to go up, two seasons on the run and we messed it up right at the death. Those failures have scarred me, they are still with me now," he said.

"I suppose that's why I want it nailed on with Sunderland. I won't start celebrating until we are absolutely certain of walking out in that Premiership next season. Mind you, it would take a hell of a disaster now to stop us."

Sunderland, in fact, could be certain of promotion come Saturday evening without kicking a ball. Crystal Palace, the only side who can now stop them, must win to extend this particular drama into the final act. Even then, a point is all that is required from Sunderland's last three games and, given the fact that they are the best team in the division, it should not prove too elusive.

Reid will then have the imposing task of preparing the North East club for life among the high rollers. It is an altogether faster pace, in the FA Carling Premiership, and Reid knows it, having spun the dice with Manchester City as a novice manager.

He did well, in fact, steering them to top-six placings in consecutive seasons before he was driven out, largely because of a poor relationship with the chairman.

"Of course there is not a vast amount of money to spend here at Sunderland when we do go up, but then there wasn't at Manchester City," he said. "People have been writing Sunderland off already, but in many ways there is a similarity between this club and City.

"There will be money made available and if it is spent sensibly then there is no reason why we can't achieve what City did when I was there as manager. There has been a lot said about our prospects, mostly negative, but I am pretty confident about our chances."

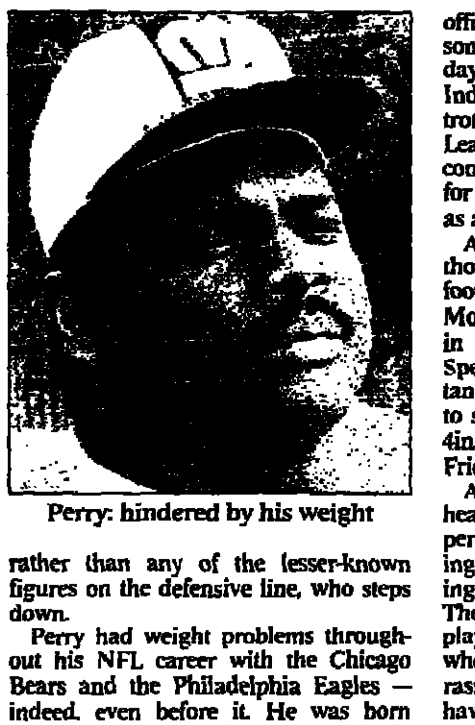
Monarchs put The Fridge on ice

By Richard Wetherell

WILLIAM "The Refrigerator" Perry, the former National Football League (NFL) giant whose bulk was employed to relaunch the World League of American Football (WLAF), has been frozen out by his new team, the London Monarchs, after only one game.

The Fridge, who became a household name in the United States and beyond when he helped the Chicago Bears to win the Super Bowl in 1985, was the focal point of the Monarchs' pre-season publicity drive off the field, but he has lost his place as defensive tackle to a home-grown talent, Lewis Capes, son of the shot-putter Geoff, for the match against Frankfurt Galaxy on Saturday.

In fact, Capes played a greater role than Perry during the Monarchs' loss to the Scottish Claymores last Sunday, despite being listed on the team sheet as Perry's understudy. On the latest sheet, the players' roles have been reversed. Capes is a beneficiary of the league's rule stating that a national player must be on the field for each team on alternating sets of plays, a set being one offensive and one defensive series. But it is Perry, rather than any of the lesser-known figures on the defensive line, who steps down.

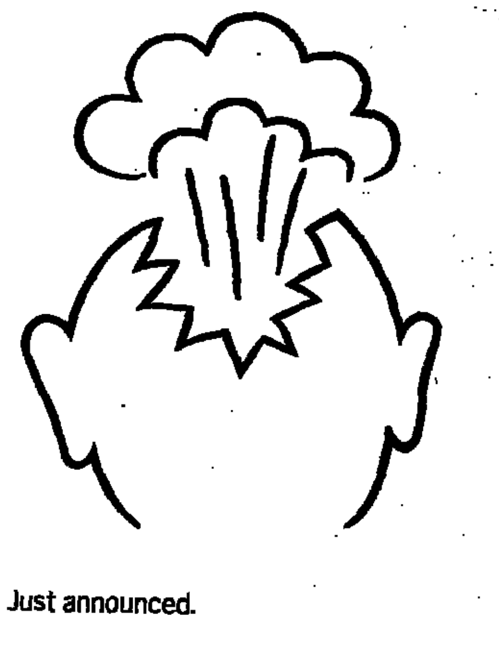


Perry: hindered by his weight

Perry had weight problems throughout his NFL career with the Chicago Bears and the Philadelphia Eagles — indeed, even before it. He was born weighing 13lb and is listed at "350-ish" in official hand-outs. That 25st looked something of an underestimate on Sunday, when extra weight hindered him. Indeed, he struggled to accelerate into a trot. Perry, who has the standard World League $12,500 (about £8,000) playing contract but receives a reported $100,000 for promotional purposes, is used purely as a run-stopper in the team.

As the son of famous father, Capes, though, is used to following in large footsteps. The 24-year-old played for the Monarchs last year and made progress in training camp this year. Maurice Spencer, the Monarchs' defensive assistant, said: "If any national player is going to succeed, it's going to be him." At 6ft 4in, Capes is two inches taller than The Fridge but weighs, officially, 21st.

After the match, Bobby Hammond, the head coach, was asked about Perry's performance. His answer, though avoiding direct criticism, was more condemning than any finely-crafted soundbite. The 24-21 loss has resulted in three players being dropped. David Gordon, who on Sunday missed, by an embarrassing margin, a field goal which would have won the match, is replaced Roger Ruzek, former Dallas Cowboys kicker.



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